

*TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN,
MASSACHUSETTS*



*ANNUAL REPORT
-2021-*

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MASSACHUSETTS*



*2021
ANNUAL REPORT*

Department reports are for the calendar year 2021 unless otherwise noted
Financial report covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022
Prepared by Sarah Hurlbut, Claire Klammer and Linda Sciarappa
Cover Photo of 330 Cole Avenue: Claire Klammer
Published by Becks Printing 2021
www.williamstownma.gov

Land Acknowledgement:

We respectfully acknowledge that Williamstown stands on the ancestral homelands of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans, who are the indigenous peoples of this region. Following tremendous hardship after being forced from their valued homelands, they continued as a sovereign Tribal Nation, known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, which today resides in Wisconsin. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

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COMMUNITY FACTS



Prior to the 1750s the land now known as Williamstown was the home of the Mohicans, who are the indigenous peoples of this region. The current government of Williamstown began to take shape in the 1750s with the arrival of white settlers who founded a settlement known then as West Hoosac. In 1765 the town was incorporated as Williamstown according to the will of Col. Ephraim Williams, who was killed at the Battle of Lake George in 1755. He bequeathed a significant sum to the town on the condition that it be named after him and started a free school. The school opened in October of 1791 with 15 students. The free school became Williams College in 1793 under a charter from the Commonwealth, becoming the only second college, following Harvard, to be founded in Massachusetts.

Elevation: 740 ft. above Sea Level

Area: 46.86 Square Miles

Population: 7806 which includes approximately 2,000 Williams College Student Body

Registered Voters: 4,840

Town Website: www.williamstownma.gov

SCHOOLS

Public

Williamstown Elementary School
Mt. Greylock Regional High School
Charles H. McCann Vocational School
(Grades 9-12 North Adams)
Berkshire Arts and Technologies Charter School
(Grades 6-12 Adams)

Private

Pine Cobble (preK-9)
Buxton (Secondary)
Williams College

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Williams College
Clark Art Institute
MountainOne Bank
Williams Inn

Williamstown Commons
Williamstown Medical Associates
Town of Williamstown
Mount Greylock Regional School District



CURRENT TOWN OFFICIALS



ELECTED OFFICIALS

SELECT BOARD

Hugh Daley	2023	Andrew Hogeland, Chair	2023
Jeff Johnson	2024	Jane Patton	2022
Wade Hasty	2022		

MODERATOR

Adam Filson	2022
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LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Charles Bonenti	2024	Deb Dimassimo	2022
Karen Kowitz	2023	Micah Manary	2022
Bridget Spann	2022	Patricia Wilk	2023

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Judith Bombardier	2025	Steve Dew	2024
John Kalapos	2024	Adrian Trabankino	2026

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Laila G. Boucher	2024	David Westall	2022
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MT. GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Julia Bowen	2024	Christina Conry	2022
Jose Constantine	2024	Curtis Elfenbein	2022
Carrie Greene	2022	Ursula Maloy	2024
Steven Miller	2022		

PLANNING BOARD

Peter Beck	2025	Dante Birch	2024
Stephanie Boyd	2023	Roger Lawrence	2026
Chris Winters, Chair	2022	Bruce McDonald, Alt.	2022



APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Daniel Caplinger	2022	Paula Consolini	2022
Melissa Cragg, Chair	2023	Charles Fox	2024
Elizabeth Goodman	2022	Doris Karampatsos	2023
Elaine Neely	2022	Fred Puddester	2023
Michael Sussman	2024		

APPOINTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Liz Costley	2022	Daniel Gura	2022
Ruth Harrison	2023	Andy Hogeland	2023
Stanley Parese	2022	Patrick Quinn	2022
Thomas E. Sheldon, Chair	2024		

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Brian Cole	2024	Averill Cook	2022
Bill Galusha	2024	Sarah Gardner, Chair	2024
Darryl Lipinski	2023	Christopher Sabot, Alt.	

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vacancy (3)

COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND RACIAL EQUITY

Andrew Art	2022	Randal Fippinger	2023
Andi Bryant	2023	Carrie Greene	2023
Shana Dix	2023	Jeff Johnson	2022
Noah Smalls	2022		

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Joseph Finnegan (Town Resident)	Philip McKnight (ConCom)
Nate Budington (Historical Commission)	Dante Birch (Planning Board)
Melissa Cragg (Finance Committee)	Jane Patton (Parks Commissioner)
Charles Blanchard (Interim Town Manager)	Steve Dew (Housing Authority)

CONSTABLES

Paul Yarter	2023	Andrew Bernardy	2023
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CULTURAL COUNCIL of NORTHERN BERKSHIRE

Cecelia Hirsch	2024	Sarah Sussman	2022
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FENCE VIEWERS

Brian Renaud	2022
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HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT

Don Clark	2022	Rhon Ernest-Jones	2022
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MOHAWK TRAIL WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP

Hank Art

MT. GREYLOCK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cosmo Catalano, State Appointed	Scott Lewis
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MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Linda Brown, Chair	2022	Donna Denelli-Hess	2023
Kris Kirby	2023		

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Nicole Beverly (D)	Town Clerk	Kurt Gabel (R)	2024
Robert A. Jones (R)	2025	Mark Windover (D)	2023

SIGN COMMISSION

Timothy Cherubini	2024	Richard Duncan	2025
Anne Hogeland	2023	Anne Singleton	2026
Kathy Thompson	2025		

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Nancy Nysten	2023
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BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Brian O'Grady	Appointed by the Select Board Chair
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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Keith Davis	2024	Andrew Hoar, Chair	2022
Amy Jeschawitz, Alt	2024	David Levine	2023
Eunice Marigliano, Alt	2024	Robert Mathews	2024
Vince Pesce	2024		



APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Hank Art	2023	Andrus Burr	2024
Sarah Currie	2022	Marilyn Faulkner	2023
David Loomis	2024	Lauren Stevens	2024
Keith Davis	2024		

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

Jeffrey Kennedy
Interim Police Chief Michael Ziemba
Officer David Jennings

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Thomas Elder
David Westall
Chris Lamarre, Chair

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Roger Lawrence, Appointed by Planning Board 2022
Roger Bolton, Alternate 2022

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Hank Art, Chair	2024	Corey Campbell	2023
Tim Carr	2024	Philip McKnight	2023
Lauren Stevens	2023	Katie Wolfgang	2022

COUNCIL ON AGING

Brian T. O'Grady, Director		Judith Bombardier	2023
Pamela Burger, Chair	2022	Mary Jo Green	2024
Martin Greenstein	2023	Karen Kelly	2022
Elaine Keyes	2024	Patricia Picard	2023
Susan Puddester	2023	Edward Sedarbaum	2024

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Michael Ziemba, Interim Police Chief

FOREST WARDEN

Richard Daniels

FORESTRY/ PEST CONTROL SUPERINTENDENT/ TREE WARDEN

Robert E. McCarthy, Jr.

HEALTH INSPECTOR

Jeffrey C. Kennedy

BOARD OF HEALTH

Devan Bartels	2024	Ruth Harrison, Chair	2023
James Parkinson, MD	2024	Ronald Stant	2022
Edwin Steubner, MD	2023		

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Nate Budington. Chair	2023	Andrus Burr	2024
Sarah Currie	2023	Patricia Leach	2024

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Michael Ziemba, Interim Chief	Paul Thompson, Sergeant
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POLICE OFFICERS

Craig Eichhammer	Kevin Garner
Tania Hernandez	John J. McConnell, Jr.
Brad Sacco	Scott Skorupski
Shuan William	Anthony Duprat

RESERVE POLICE OFFICER

David Jennings
Kalvin Dziedziak

POLICE DISPATCHERS

Haley Sigsbury	Christy Lemoine
Laura Tuper	Barbara Brucato

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

William Cote	Linda Nichols
Rosella Cote	Scott Parks

SELECT BOARD

Andrew S. Hogeland, Chair

All of the town boards, committees and personnel covered by this 2021 annual report had their operations significantly burdened by the impact of the COVID pandemic. The challenges of trying to work in a safe manner, dealing with a reduced ability to meet in person, and learning new ways of communicating and working remotely, affected every aspect of town government. We should pause to appreciate what all of the individuals serving in town government have been able to accomplish over the last two years under these conditions. The Select Board thanks them all for their work in keeping our local government operating at a high level. I would like to note in particular the COVID-related organization and communication accomplishments of Health Inspector Jeff Kennedy and the Board of Health, Council on Aging (COA) Director Brian O'Grady and the entire COA, and Chamber of Commerce Director Sue Briggs.

The work of the Select Board during 2021 was dominated by continuing to undertake responsive actions necessitated by allegations of improper conduct within the police department over a 20-year period. The allegations were first raised to the attention of the Select Board and the public in August 2020, the details of which have been widely reported elsewhere. The allegations prompted a community-wide discussion about the culture of our town, police operations, and racial equity. Although not all of the allegations have been proven true, there was sufficient gravity to them that called for a series of responses including several resignations.

In the summer of 2020, the Select Board had established an advisory committee, known as the Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Equity committee, to assist in these conversations and make actionable recommendations to address the issues raised. The conversations continued throughout 2021, and were often difficult, but were necessary as a way to raise several issues and to identify corrective actions.

Several personnel changes were made, including the resignation of the former Police Chief at the end of 2020, the former Town Manager in the Spring of 2021, and a police sergeant in Fall of 2021. The Select Board commissioned an independent investigation of a variety of claims of misconduct within the police department. The investigation was designed to address public concerns over the allegations, to determine as far as possible what actually occurred and to identify recommendations. The investigation was completed in August 2021 and resulted in several recommendations on improving police operations. Implementation was underway during the course of the year and is continuing.

Similarly, the Select Board commissioned a Human Resources Audit which was completed in the summer of 2021. The board also commissioned the drafting of an updated set of Human Resources policies, a draft of which was developed in the summer of 2021 and which is currently being revised into a final draft to be presented to the Select Board for review and approval.

The Town hired a full-time staff person in February 2021 to conduct an 18-month research project to better understand safety and well-being in Williamstown. The Williamstown Community Assessment and Research (CARES) program is being conducted under the supervision of a team of volunteer social workers. It will explore how the Town addresses public safety needs, how the residents feel about their own safety and how we can create a better sense of safety and well-being and improved policing practices. Although the staff person has resigned, the volunteer social workers are increasing their participation. We expect that study to be completed during 2022 and will include additional recommendations the Town should undertake.

Former Town Manager Jason Hoch resigned as of May 2021. To fill the vacancy in the position of town manager on an interim basis, the Select Board hired Charles Blanchard as Interim Town Manager, who took up his duties on a part-time basis in April 2021, then on a full-time basis as of January 2022. The Select Board formed a citizen search committee for the position of Town Manager. That committee represented a cross section of the town and included diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) factors in its search. In order to get public participation in

the search for a permanent Town Manager, the Board's search committee held a public meet-and-greet session open to the public so they could meet the final two candidates and provide input to the Select Board members. The Town Manager search did not result in the selection of a Town Manager in the fall of 2021, so the search started again in January 2022. We are very grateful for Mr. Blanchard's experience and support during a very challenging year, dealing with significant personnel issues and keeping town hall operating efficiently, all during a pandemic.

Upon the resignation of former Police Chief Kyle Johnson in December 2020, former Town Manager Jason Hoch appointed Lt. Michael Ziemba as acting Police Chief. A citizen search committee was established to advise the Town Manager on the selection of an Interim Police Chief, and it recommended two candidates to Mr. Blanchard, one of which was Lt. Ziemba, who was chosen by Mr. Blanchard for that position. The search for a permanent Police Chief is expected to resume upon the appointment of a permanent Town Manager.

The effective governance of Williamstown depends on citizen understanding of how government processes work, and on having citizens have access to public meetings. We should note two developments on this front. First, in May 2021 the Select Board published the first ever guide to Select Board operations in order to increase understanding of how the Board works and to be more transparent to the community at large. Second, because the COVID pandemic severely hampered our ability to meet in person, we had to install new technology to address this challenge. In order to facilitate interactive attendance by the public by Zoom, without requiring their voices to be heard only if they showed up at a meeting in person, the Town and Willinet installed Zoom-compatible broadcast and participation technology. This allows for interactive participation for those who do not attend in-person meetings, including for reasons of health, disability, and transportation challenges.

We also saw continued progress on the Town's longstanding interest in ensuring that housing is made available to those who have difficulties affording decent housing. In recent years, this commitment has been by the Town's financial and permitting support to the development of affordable units at Church Corners on Cole Avenue, Cable Mills on Water Street, and Highland Woods off of Church Street. This year saw the opening of 40 affordable units at 330 Cole Avenue and the completion of the first of two houses financially supported by the Affordable Housing Trust at the corner of Cole and Maple Streets. In early 2021, announcements were made of a phase 3 development at Cable Mills which would add 54 total units, 27 of which would be affordable housing.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew S. Hogeland, Chair

TOWN MANAGER

Charlie Blanchard, Interim Town Manager

2021 turned out to be another challenging year for Williamstown. In addition to dealing with the continuing impacts of Covid-19, the year began with the search for an Interim Police Chief, followed soon by the announced resignation of Town Manager Jason Hoch to be effective May 1st, and the appointment of an independent investigator to look into complaints made against members of the Police Department in a 2020 lawsuit that was withdrawn after the resignation of the former Police Chief last December. In March, the Select Board retained the services of a second investigator to look into charges made against a WPD Sergeant by the full-time officers of the Department.

My contract with the Town as Interim Town Manager began on April 12th and after a transition period with Town Manager Hoch, I assumed the responsibilities of the position on May 1st. After interviewing the finalists selected by the Interim Police Chief Search Committee, I selected Acting Chief Michael Ziemba to become the Interim Police Chief. This has proven to be an excellent choice based on his performance over the past year.

Due to Covid-19, the Annual Town Meeting was once again held outside at the Weston Field Athletic Complex. In addition to the normal business conducted to provide the funding to operate the Town, a comprehensive Marijuana By-law was passed, funding for a new Comprehensive Plan was approved, and the Town committed to developing a comprehensive plan by 2023 to reach a goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions in line with the goal set by the State.

The HR Audit requested by the Select Board and the initial draft of proposed changes to the HR Policy Manual were received in June and returned to the consultant for revisions in August after review by Town Staff and members of the D.I.R.E. Committee.

The investigations ordered by the Select Board were completed in August and referred to a Special Counsel for review. Based on this, a Civil Service Hearing was scheduled in October but prior to its commencement a settlement agreement was reached resolving the issues between a former WPD Sergeant and the Town.

The search for a permanent Town Manager began in June with the appointment of a Search Committee and the hiring of GovHR to conduct the search. After interviewing several candidates three finalists were selected, but one of these candidates withdrew before being interviewed by the Select Board. The decision was made not to hire either candidate and a new search will be undertaken in 2022.

The LED Streetlight Conversion project moved forward after the funding was approved at the Town Meeting under the leadership of members of the COOL Committee and our DPW Director. The streetlights were purchased from National Grid in October, materials were purchased, and a contractor was selected to install the new lights and controls. The conversion is expected to begin in March and should be completed in May 2022.

The Williamstown Community Assessment and Research (Williamstown CARES) program began this year with a Town-wide solicitation for residents to participate in one-on-one interviews with volunteer social workers to assess the overall feeling on wellness and safety in the community. It is anticipated that the results of this study will be available by the summer of 2022.

Interim Chief Mike Ziemba has partnered with the Department of Justice to bring their program for Strengthening Police and Community Relations to Williamstown. SPCP is a structured program where diverse community members come together to engage in constructive and civil dialogue, work to identify issues that impact the police-community relationship and develop solutions that best fit the community. This dialogue is planned to take place in an all-day work session open to the community in early March.

The Town's chapter of the League of Women Voters presented its annual town employee of the year award this year to Julie Snow, our assistant town accountant. "Most community members will never encounter Julie Snow

in Town Hall," the League said. "However, her skill and dedication to the accountant's office have been of enormous value. Julie has demonstrated considerable problem-solving skills, not the least of these to get coherent results from the town's rather clunky financial software."

In over 40 years of municipal service, I have never encountered a more dedicated and professional staff than I have in Williamstown, and Julie is a perfect example of this.

On behalf of the Town Hall staff, I would like to express our appreciation to Jason Hoch for the excellent leadership he provided over the past six years and wish him well in his future endeavors. His accomplishments are too numerous to report here, but one of his most significant is the sound financial condition in which he has left the Town.

I also note the retirement this year of Debra Turnbull after 10 years of dedicated service as the Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager, Marion Quinn-Jowett after 10 years of dedicated service as the Outreach Coordinator at the Council on Aging, and Steve Sweet after 32 years of dedicated service in the Highway Department.

We welcomed the following new full-time employees this year – Linda Sciarappa, Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager; Claire Klammer, Administrative Assistant Community Development; Barbara Columbus, Administrative Assistant DPW; Sarah Kline, COA Outreach Coordinator; Richard Andrews, COA Van Driver; Michael Hayes, DPW Heavy Equipment Operator; Jenna English, Library Clerk; Jack Sarr, Library Administrative Assistant; Christine Lemoine, Dispatch Department; and Haley Sigsbury, Dispatch Department.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Select Board for the opportunity to serve as your Interim Town Manager, and to the other elected and appointed officials whose service on the many volunteer Boards and Committees make Williamstown the outstanding community that it is.

I would especially like to thank the employees of the Town, whose dedication, knowledge, and skills have made my time here so enjoyable.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Lauren R. Stevens

The 1753 House, in the middle of Field Park, opened for summer weekend visitors in 2021, having been unable to do so due to COVID 19 restrictions in 2020. Unlike any other time in its 68-year history, in October it also disappeared—temporarily. Disappearing, it generated awareness that there were people here before 1753.

Although the House wasn't open for such events as the winter carol sing or visits by school groups, it welcomed visitors Saturday, Sunday, and holidays from Memorial Day through September. Two hundred eighty-five people accepted the invitation to sign in to the visitors' book. That compares with 420 sign-ins in 2019.

Twenty-nine states were represented, with a larger percent than in other years local: 67 from Massachusetts plus 16 from Berkshire County and 25 from Williamstown. Thirteen international visitors signed in, including one from Kazakhstan and one from Kenya. Unlike other years, none from Canada, due of course to travel restrictions.

As always, some messages caught the eye. "Albert Hopkins," apparently the reincarnation of the versatile 19th century Williams College faculty member, asked that we "stoke the fire." Someone passing through in September said he or she had "last visited [the House] 50 years ago." An Appalachian Trail through-hiker paused at the House in June.

The "disappearance," was an art installation by Randal Fippinger, a producer and outreach manager at the college's '62 Center and a member of the town's Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Equity Committee, and the college art museum's Deputy Director of Engagement Christina Yeng, in conjunction with Mohican heritage leaders, to re-imagine the area before settlers of European extraction arrived; that is, the era before Indigenous people were driven out. Of the House, symbolic of the first houses in town, only the roof was visible above the fencing.

The screening labeled the four cardinal directions, together with the totems. On the East side, the turkey, as in the photograph. On the South, a turtle, a bear for the West and a wolf for the North. The signs that explain that the House was built by the same methods and materials as the first houses in town were draped so that only the phrase, "Homeland of the Mohican People," which the '53 House Committee added last year, remained. The fencing was removed after a week or so.

Thanks to Dave and his 18th century carpentry skills for securing the door and windows. The 1753 House Committee members hope that in 2022 the House will resume full operation. Henry "Hank" Art, Andrus Burr, Sarah Currie, Keith Davis, Marilyn Faulkner, David Loomis, and Lauren Stevens.



Town of Williamstown						
Annual Report of Budgets and Expenditures General Fund						
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021						
	FY21	FY20	Total	Year to Date	FY21	
Account	Budget	Encumbrance	Available	Expended	Encumbrance	Balance
Appropriations - General						
Select Board	\$33,472.00	\$3,500.00	\$36,972.00	\$24,439.35	\$0.00	\$12,532.65
Sand Springs Recreation ATM Article	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	0.00
Town Manager	250,778.95	3,911.18	254,690.13	258,380.29	0.00	(3,690.16)
Town Counsel	73,845.00	5,000.00	78,845.00	79,999.01	0.00	(1,154.01)
Emergency Management	2,253.00	0.00	2,253.00	2,228.00	0.00	25.00
Insurance	132,838.13	(4,945.00)	127,893.13	139,078.88	0.00	(11,185.75)
Finance Committee	180.00	0.00	180.00	180.00	0.00	0.00
Town Accountant	237,816.50	17,420.00	255,236.50	237,494.39	17,420.00	322.11
Assessor	121,002.25	6,800.00	127,802.25	113,343.39	5,450.00	9,008.86
Treasurer-Collector	156,140.00	101.50	156,241.50	156,625.54	0.00	(384.04)
Management Information Systems	128,909.00	10,982.49	139,891.49	123,757.04	0.00	16,134.45
Town Clerk	73,095.00	612.50	73,707.50	71,962.18	0.00	1,745.32
Registrar of Voters	26,750.61	0.00	26,750.61	21,297.31	0.00	5,453.30
Voting Machines	0.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	2,800.00	0.00	1,400.00
Employees Benefits	2,262,802.72	30,000.00	2,292,802.72	2,145,458.52	9,703.80	137,640.40
Conservation Commission	17,005.00	0.00	17,005.00	19,280.39	0.00	(2,275.39)
Agricultural Commission	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Planning Board	8,443.16	0.00	8,443.16	8,713.01	0.00	(269.85)
Recreation Study ATM Article	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00
Broadband Study ATM Article	85,000.00	0.00	85,000.00	0.00	85,000.00	0.00
Broadband Study ATM FY18	0.00	5,811.37	5,811.37	0.00	5,811.37	0.00
Zoning Board	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,165.30	0.00	(165.30)
Historical Commission	500.00	0.00	500.00	923.30	0.00	(423.30)
Community Development	308,815.42	16,657.28	325,472.70	292,756.93	1,908.64	30,807.13
Sealer of Weights & Measures	7,203.05	0.00	7,203.05	7,248.32	0.00	(45.27)
Health Department	84,423.94	0.00	84,423.94	87,775.87	0.00	(3,351.93)
Police Department	1,220,045.48	0.00	1,220,045.48	1,203,725.30	387.12	15,933.06
Dispatch Services	223,302.12	0.00	223,302.12	223,903.04	0.00	(600.92)
Animal Control Officer	3,452.00	0.00	3,452.00	488.76	0.00	2,963.24
Forest Warden	8,826.15	0.00	8,826.15	10,655.22	0.00	(1,829.07)
Director of Public Works	167,589.59	9,437.89	177,027.48	150,835.63	25,650.00	541.85
Site Assessment Hart Landfill	0.00	12,567.67	12,567.67	0.00	0.00	12,567.67
Facilities Management	182,437.09	8,121.25	190,558.34	180,158.44	11,475.69	(1,075.79)
Town Hall Improvements	0.00	16,396.02	16,396.02	0.00	0.00	16,396.02
Highway Department	1,133,742.95	537,956.61	1,671,699.56	1,130,264.59	454,476.58	86,958.39
Cluett Drain Replacement	0.00	73,547.22	73,547.22	0.00	73,547.22	0.00
Arnold Street Sidewalk Repair	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00
N. Hoosac Rd Stabilization Engineering	0.00	41,800.00	41,800.00	0.00	41,800.00	0.00
Hoxsey St - Mill & Pave	64,200.00	0.00	64,200.00	400.00	63,800.00	0.00
Baxter Rd - Mill/Overlay/Curbing	49,000.00	0.00	49,000.00	49,000.00	0.00	0.00

Longview Terrace - Mill/Overlay/Curbing	149,000.00	0.00	149,000.00	1,056.19	147,943.81	0.00
Buxton Hill Rd - Mill/Overlay	82,000.00	0.00	82,000.00	74,871.98	7,128.02	0.00
International Dump Truck	180,000.00	0.00	180,000.00	169,351.56	0.00	10,648.44
Snow and Ice Control	229,187.35	0.00	229,187.35	229,186.88	0.00	0.47
Streetlights	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	(1.00)
Parks and Cemetery	276,279.81	17,792.90	294,072.71	234,394.34	9,205.88	50,472.49
Linear Park Tennis Court Resurface	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.00
Linear Park Pickleball Court	0.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00
Asphalt Road Improvements	0.00	1,199.21	1,199.21	0.00	0.00	1,199.21
Fence Replacement	0.00	19,385.00	19,385.00	0.00	19,385.00	0.00
Cemetery Record Cards	0.00	3,324.62	3,324.62	607.30	0.00	2,717.32
Sherman Burbank Chapel	3,725.00	0.00	3,725.00	2,606.99	1,000.00	118.01
Forestry Department	49,863.92	16,500.00	66,363.92	47,399.05	18,964.87	(0.00)
Recreation Commission	18,102.00	0.00	18,102.00	17,260.41	0.00	841.59
Youth Center	77,000.00	0.00	77,000.00	77,000.00	0.00	0.00
Mental Health Services	60,000.00	0.00	60,000.00	57,284.59	1,074.00	1,641.41
Council on Aging	237,127.68	3,011.00	240,138.68	238,864.09	0.00	1,274.59
Veterans Benefits	93,575.65	0.00	93,575.65	88,696.25	1,538.00	3,341.40
Library	485,091.19	21,861.87	506,953.06	468,897.63	21,460.00	16,595.43
Sidewalks & Parking Lot	0.00	12,183.42	12,183.42	0.00	12,183.42	0.00
Window Replacement	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00
Repair Windows	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00
Veterans Graves and Holidays	3,050.00	0.00	3,050.00	2,143.14	0.00	906.86
General Debt Service	567,188.00	0.00	567,188.00	567,187.50	0.00	0.50
Mt Greylock Regional School	12,113,423.00	0.00	12,113,423.00	12,113,423.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Berk Vocational School	274,522.00	0.00	274,522.00	267,096.00	0.00	7,426.00
Chamber of Commerce	45,332.00	0.00	45,332.00	45,332.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to other Funds	183,763.00	0.00	183,763.00	183,763.00	0.00	0.00
Reserve Fund	10,383.00	0.00	10,383.00	0.00	0.00	10,383.00
Total Appropriated - General	\$22,276,482.71	\$978,136.00	\$23,254,618.71	\$21,643,760.90	\$1,179,313.42	\$431,544.39
Tax Rate Assessments						
State Assessments	\$5,092.00	\$0.00	\$5,092.00	\$4,613.00	\$0.00	\$479.00
County Assessments	34,231.00	0.00	34,231.00	31,951.00	0.00	2,280.00
Other Assessments	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
Total Tax Rate Assessments	\$139,323.00	\$0.00	\$139,323.00	\$36,564.00	\$0.00	\$102,759.00
Total General Fund	\$22,415,805.71	\$978,136.00	\$23,393,941.71	\$21,680,324.90	\$1,179,313.42	\$534,303.39

Town of Williamstown						
Annual Report of Budgets and Expenditures Enterprise Funds						
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021						
	FY21	FY20	Total	Year to Date	FY21	
Account	Budget	Encumbrance	Available	Expended	Encumbrance	Balance
Appropriations - Transfer Station	\$239,954.99	\$8,783.50	\$248,738.49	\$213,724.03	\$0.00	\$35,014.46
Sustainable Materials Recovery	4,900.00	8,472.55	13,372.55	0.00	13,372.55	0.00
Transfers to OPEB Trust	520.43	0.00	520.43	520.00	0.00	0.43
Transfer to Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Appropriations - Sewer Department	361,889.10	45,180.04	407,069.14	375,164.26	43,549.04	(11,644.16)
Cold Spring Pump Upgrades C12PU	0.00	23,283.50	23,283.50	0.00	23,283.50	0.00
Pump Station Upgrades C17PS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
Pump Station Upgrades C18PS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
Sewer Camera Replacement C18SC	0.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00
Cold Spring Pump Upgrades C19CS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
South St Sewer Replacement C19SS	0.00	84,000.00	84,000.00	0.00	84,000.00	0.00
Cold Spring Pump Upgrades C20PS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
South St Sewer Replacement C20SS	0.00	84,000.00	84,000.00	0.00	84,000.00	0.00
Ford F150 C21FT	23,000.00	0.00	23,000.00	15,830.67	0.00	7,169.33
Ford Transit Connect Van C21FV	33,000.00	0.00	33,000.00	32,921.26	0.00	78.74
Inflow & Infiltration Reduction C21II	300,000.00	0.00	300,000.00	132,562.20	167,437.80	0.00
Backhoe Rebuild C21RB	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
South Street Sewer Replacement C21SS	107,000.00	0.00	107,000.00	0.00	107,000.00	0.00
Sewer Debt Service	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
Transfers to General Fund	82,219.00	0.00	82,219.00	82,219.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to OPEB Trust	2,375.90	0.00	2,375.90	2,376.00	0.00	(0.10)
Transfers to Reserve	23,000.00	0.00	23,000.00	0.00	0.00	23,000.00
Hoosac Water Quality District	703,150.00	0.00	703,150.00	671,277.42	0.00	31,872.58
Appropriations - Water Department	626,203.14	18,684.35	644,887.49	655,131.88	10,000.00	(20,244.39)
Well 1 Decommissioning C15W1	0.00	19,677.00	19,677.00	0.00	19,677.00	0.00
Well #2 Rehab C17W2	0.00	120,000.00	120,000.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00
Maple Street Main Replacement C17MS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GIS Water Map C17GS	0.00	18,156.50	18,156.50	1,215.00	16,941.50	0.00
Hoxsey/Main Water Main Replace C20MN	0.00	13,554.58	13,554.58	13,554.58	0.00	0.00
Ford F150 C21FT	23,000.00	0.00	23,000.00	15,830.65	0.00	7,169.35
Hoxsey St Mill/Pave/Water C21HS	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	66,784.27	33,215.73	0.00
Backhoe Rebuild C21RB	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
Water Debt Service	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
Transfers to General Fund	117,081.00	0.00	117,081.00	117,081.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to OPEB Trust	3,340.52	0.00	3,340.52	3,341.00	0.00	(0.48)
Transfer to Reserves	272,627.46	0.00	272,627.46	0.00	0.00	272,627.46
Total Enterprise	\$3,093,261.54	\$638,792.02	\$3,732,053.56	\$2,419,533.22	\$917,477.12	\$395,043.22

Borrowed Funds - Sewer Department						
Inflow and Infiltration	\$0.00	\$51,448.94	\$51,448.94	\$51,448.94	\$0.00	\$0.00

Town of Williamstown					
Annual Report of Revenues and Expenditures Special Revenue Funds					
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021					
	Balance		Total		Balance
Account	7/1/2020	Receipts	Available	Expended	6/30/2021
Special Revenue Funds					
Town of Williamstown					
Highway Flood Control - Green River	\$474.60	\$0.00	\$474.60	\$474.60	\$0.00
Highway - Cole Ave Bridge	517.74	0.00	517.74	0.00	517.74
Highway - Roaring Brook Grant	6,575.96	0.00	6,575.96	0.00	6,575.96
Highway - Chapter 90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Highway - Syndicate Stabilization Grant	5,243.80	0.00	5,243.80	0.00	5,243.80
Highway - Linear Park Bridge	4,044.12	0.00	4,044.12	4,044.12	0.00
Community Preservation Act Fund	421,406.08	341,681.59	763,087.67	426,172.69	336,914.98
Selectmen - Spruces HMG	73,189.74	0.00	73,189.74	1,995.00	71,194.74
Selectmen - COVID-19 CARES CvrF	340.33	184,053.00	184,393.33	316,934.39	(132,541.06)
Selectmen - COVID-19 FEMA	(13,085.07)	0.00	(13,085.07)	(4,241.63)	(8,843.44)
Selectmen - COVID-19 ARPA	0.00	389,055.90	389,055.90	5,383.91	383,671.99
Selectmen - Cable Technology Fund	269.71	0.00	269.71	0.00	269.71
Selectmen - Comm St Tree Restoration	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	25.00	1,475.00
Selectmen - Toxic Use Reduction Grant	367.60	0.00	367.60	151.51	216.09
Selectmen - RRA -Capital Projects	2,451.69	0.00	2,451.69	0.00	2,451.69
Selectmen - Solarize MA Program	4,414.11	0.00	4,414.11	1,308.44	3,105.67
Comm Compact IT Grant	6,900.00	0.00	6,900.00	6,900.00	0.00
Town Clerk - Polling Reimbursement	469.18	887.04	1,356.22	1,356.22	(0.00)
ConCom - Wetlands Fees	26,803.44	0.00	26,803.44	400.00	26,403.44
ConCom - Consultant Fees	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
ConCom - Stone Hill Stewardship Grant	2,805.00	0.00	2,805.00	0.00	2,805.00
Forest Mgmt Planning Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,904.00	(18,904.00)
Mass Housing Ptnr Zoning Grant	650.68	0.00	650.68	0.00	650.68
Planning Bd - DOT Comp Sts Priority Plan	(13,481.76)	0.00	(13,481.76)	0.00	(13,481.76)
RRA TNC Ride Assessment	114.40	12.40	126.80	0.00	126.80
Econ Develop - Bike Trail Gift	2,871.64	0.00	2,871.64	0.00	2,871.64
Econ Develop - MA Cultural Council	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	0.00
Econ Develop - Mohawk Bike Pedestrian Trail	(191,967.72)	189,028.91	(2,938.81)	10,510.75	(13,449.56)
Pub Property - Green Community Grant	2,554.83	0.00	2,554.83	2,554.83	0.00
Police - Support Fund	(25,144.08)	5,580.00	(19,564.08)	0.00	(19,564.08)
Police - Drug Task Force	17,787.24	5,222.83	23,010.07	12,196.47	10,813.60
Police - Forfeiture Funds	15,420.46	0.00	15,420.46	0.00	15,420.46
Police - Defibrillator Gift	714.54	0.00	714.54	0.00	714.54
Police - K9 Gifts	6,757.28	0.00	6,757.28	779.98	5,977.30
Police - E911 Training Grant	(129.00)	0.00	(129.00)	1,290.00	(1,419.00)

Police - E911 Communications Grant	(9,830.65)	32,291.92	22,461.27	43,900.96	(21,439.69)
Police - COPS MORE Grant	301.89	0.00	301.89	0.00	301.89
Police - Bullet Proof Vest Grant	954.50	0.00	954.50	954.50	0.00
Inspection Services - Revolving Fund	270,632.77	94,552.20	365,184.97	59,278.76	305,906.21
Civil Defense - Emergency Management Grant	2,002.10	2,228.00	4,230.10	2,228.00	2,002.10
Civil Defense - Hazard Mitigation Grant	(3,729.24)	2,650.77	(1,078.47)	0.00	(1,078.47)
MVP Municipal Vulnerability	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,688.31	(36,688.31)
Animal Control - Operations Gift	164.13	0.00	164.13	0.00	164.13
Forest Warden - Assist Firefighters	(1,953.00)	1,953.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DPW - Damaged Prop	25,639.73	4,017.03	29,656.76	29,656.76	0.00
Parks - Litchfield Beautification Gift	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	210.17	1,789.83
Parks - Sherman Chapel Gifts	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
COA - Activity Fund	8,100.09	1,603.00	9,703.09	1,156.31	8,546.78
COA - CPR Grant	180.00	0.00	180.00	180.00	0.00
COA - Elder Services Meal Grant	1,768.60	0.00	1,768.60	132.87	1,635.73
COA - Formula Grant	0.00	25,176.00	25,176.00	13,583.28	11,592.72
Library - Revolving Fund	3,326.02	711.32	4,037.34	0.00	4,037.34
Library - Museum Pass Gift	1,870.00	0.00	1,870.00	1,325.00	545.00
Library - Gifts for Books	7,587.47	5,480.78	13,068.25	546.90	12,521.35
Library - Damaged Prop	2,326.52	105.00	2,431.52	0.00	2,431.52
Library - Operations Gift	7,740.51	17,139.00	24,879.51	14,066.85	10,812.66
Library - LIG/MEG Grant	0.00	14,297.98	14,297.98	0.00	14,297.98
Library - Renovation Donations	60,974.94	35,000.00	95,974.94	53,253.42	42,721.52
Recreation - Revolving Acct	3,564.14	0.00	3,564.14	787.28	2,776.86
Recreation - Skateboard Park Gift	379.00	0.00	379.00	296.95	82.05
Benefits - BHG Health Coordinator	2,066.97	2,000.00	4,066.97	2,704.79	1,362.18
Special Revenue Funds-Borrowed Funds					
Cemetery Building	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55
Total Special Revenue	\$748,731.58	\$1,364,227.67	\$2,112,959.25	\$1,075,591.39	\$1,037,367.86

Town of Williamstown					
Annual Report of Revenues and Expenditures Trust Funds					
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021					
	Balance		Total		Balance
Account	7/1/2020	Receipts	Available	Expended	6/30/2021
Trust Funds					
Affordable Housing	\$20,037.12	\$75,658.17	\$95,695.29	-\$5,303.00	\$100,998.29
Alma Morey	6,879.10	73.75	6,952.85	0.00	6,952.85
Botsford-House of Local History Trust	44,567.26	477.75	45,045.01	0.00	45,045.01
Botsford - Library Trust	73,424.40	787.08	74,211.48	0.00	74,211.48
Bullock Forest	104,818.08	1,043.75	105,861.83	15,000.00	90,861.83
C.D. Foster	2,069.71	22.19	2,091.90	0.00	2,091.90
Compensated Balances	285,463.81	152,506.05	437,969.86	152,551.64	285,418.22
Conservation Commission	4,043.65	43.36	4,087.01	0.00	4,087.01
Helen Renzi School	10,645.55	114.05	10,759.60	198.19	10,561.41
J.E. Bascom	11,900.99	127.59	12,028.58	0.00	12,028.58
Library Annual Fund	32,166.73	36,199.93	68,366.66	34,603.80	33,762.86
Library Carpenter Fund	10,388.93	111.13	10,500.06	213.72	10,286.34
Margaret Lindley	2,674.43	28.68	2,703.11	0.00	2,703.11
Municipal Scholarship	38,177.72	3,555.60	41,733.32	0.00	41,733.32
OPEB Liability Trust	559,230.25	146,996.03	706,226.28	0.00	706,226.28
Perpetual Care Income	16,823.56	4,904.93	21,728.49	9,000.00	12,728.49
Perpetual Care Principal	405,781.13	18,100.00	423,881.13	0.00	423,881.13
Sale of Lots	28,776.86	1,700.00	30,476.86	0.00	30,476.86
Sherman Burbank	867,764.54	9,414.10	877,178.64	12,894.00	864,284.64
Southlawn Cemetery	5,066.93	54.30	5,121.23	0.00	5,121.23
Stabilization Fund	1,430,718.73	15,285.28	1,446,004.01	180,000.00	1,266,004.01
Torrey Woods	3,242.00	34.77	3,276.77	0.00	3,276.77
West Lawn Cemetery	213,571.16	11,770.84	225,342.00	0.00	225,342.00
Total Trust Funds	\$4,178,232.64	\$479,009.33	\$4,657,241.97	\$399,158.35	\$4,258,083.62

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

Thomas Sheldon, Chair

Members: Tom Sheldon, Chair, Liz Costley, Daniel Gura, Ruth Harrison, Andy Hogeland, Stan Parese and Patrick Quinn

In 2021, the Trust's considerable efforts and resources were placed in its Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERAP) and Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (WEMAP).

Since its creation in May 2020, WERAP, administered by Berkshire Housing Development Corporation (BHDC), disbursed \$66,169.00 to town residents adversely affected by the pandemic to assist with their emergency rental payments. Thus far only one applicant has applied for WEMAP funds – a grant of \$1331.00 was made.

The Trust reinstated the DeMayo Mortgage Assistance Program that had been suspended due to lack of funding. The program has disbursed 20 DeMayo grants in the last five years. Presently a paucity of homes for sale in the appropriate price range has led to no applicants since 2020.

The Trust collaborated with Northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity (NBHfH) to secure a Community Preservation Act grant. The Habitat house at the corner of Maple and Cole was completed and the family moved in this fall. The foundation was poured for the second house at the site and work will commence this spring. Both homes sit on land the Trust purchased and then donated to NBHfH.

The Trust re-engaged with considering possible property acquisition and development. David Carver of CT Management Group and BHDC executive director Eileen Peltier attended a Trust meeting to outline their different development models. It hosted guest speaker Elizabeth Smith who discussed land trusts and how these initiatives have transformed communities in Massachusetts.

The Trust continues to collaborate with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DIRE), the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and other entities with overlapping interests in Williamstown's affordable housing needs.

Liz Costley
Secretary

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Sarah Gardner, Chair

Email: agcom@williamstownma.gov

Purpose: The Agricultural Commission supports commercial agriculture and other farming activities in Williamstown, MA. The Commission's duties include but are not limited to:

- Serving as facilitators for farmers and farm enterprises;
- Encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Williamstown;
- Welcoming and supporting new farmers in the community;
- Promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities in Williamstown;
- Mediating, advocating, educating, and negotiating farming issues;
- Supporting the preservation of agricultural lands; and
- Advising town boards on issues involving agriculture.

2021 Commissioners: Sarah Gardner (Chair), Brian Cole, Averill Cook, Darryl Lapinski, William Galusha, Christopher Sabot (Alternate).

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Cannabis Cultivation Zoning Bylaw: In an effort to advise the town on the best zoning bylaw to allow for, and to regulate cannabis cultivation, the Commission members spent considerable time educating themselves about cannabis farming, and invited several guest farmers to meetings to learn about their operations. The Commissioners agreed on a position that would allow for commercially viable outdoor cannabis growing while protecting the community from negative impacts. The Commission worked with the Planning Board to craft a bylaw for Annual Town Meeting 2021 that allows for outdoor growing while protecting neighbors from potential negative visual or odor impacts. The Commission wrote letters stating and explaining this position to the Planning Board (Feb. 2021), the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee (March 2021), and attended several town board meetings to express the position of the Agricultural Commission. Members spoke at Annual Town Meeting in favor of zoning to allow for commercially viable outdoor cannabis cultivation.
- Farmland Preservation: The Commission continued to support permanent protection of working farmland and to that end advocated for the local match for the William and Kelly Galusha Agricultural Preservation Restriction for their 17 acre parcel of prime farmland that is integral to Fairfields Farm.
- The Commission prepared an information sheet, "Williamstown Farms Under Threat," to educate and encourage Community Preservation Committee members about the farming profile of Williamstown to gain support for the \$56,000 CPC allocation of the local matching funds from the CPC Open Space Fund.
- Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR): To educate the public about farmland for the Town Meeting vote on the Galusha APR, the Commission prepared an information sheet and made a short film, "Farmland for the Future" (available on Vimeo), featuring several Williamstown farmers, which explains the pressures facing farmers and farmland in Williamstown. There is a shortage of farmland and competition for land, and the strong real estate market has increased land values and development pressures, making farmland more expensive to buy and to retain.
- Farmland: The Commission worked with the Mass Dept of Agricultural Resources to identify prime farmland parcels that are eligible for farmland protection.
- The Commission worked with American Farmland Trust to identify "Farmland of Local Importance," based on historical farmland use in town.
- Williamstown Farmers Market: The Commission invites the Williamstown Farmers Market board to meetings each year for an update. However, the Commission did not provide financial support to the WFM in 2021.

- Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG): The Commission wrote a letter of support to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for a FSI Grant for an automatic milk system for Fairfield's Farm (Oct. 2021).
- Annual Farmers Dinner: For the second time in 10 years, the Agricultural Commission did not host its Annual Farmers Dinner due to Covid protocols. The Annual Farmers Dinner expects to return in fall 2022.



BOARD OF ASSESSORS
Christopher Lamarre, Chair

The Assessors are responsible for annually valuing real and personal property at its full and fair cash value as of the date of assessment of January 1. The "Mass Appraisal Approach" to value is the methodology assessors across the Commonwealth use when determining values for ad valorem tax purposes. The DOR's Bureau of Local Assessment defines Mass Appraisal as, "the use of standardized procedures for collecting data and appraising property to ensure that all properties within a municipality are valued uniformly and equitably". "It is the process of valuing a group of properties as of a given date, using common data, employing standardized methods and conducting statistical tests to ensure uniformity and equity in the valuations".

For FY 2021 there were 2,522 residential parcels, 254 classified as commercial, 15 industrial and 124 personal property accounts for a grand total of 2,915 taxable parcels. The combined taxable value of the parcels and accounts was \$1,039,356,031, an increase of \$19,489,390 or 1.9% over the prior year value of \$1,019,866,641. As a percentage of the \$17,980,859 tax levy, the residential class paid 88.75% of the levy or \$15,777,810. Commercial & Industrial classes paid a combined 9.96% or \$1,791,019 while personal property accounted for 2.29% of the levy or \$412,030. Separate from taxable parcels there were 195 parcels classified as tax exempt with a value of \$503,873,900.

The tax rate is calculated by dividing the tax levy which is the amount of money to be raised to fund the budget (\$17,980,859), by the total value of taxable real and personal property (\$1,039,356,031). This produced a tax rate of \$17.30 per \$1,000 of value for FY2021, a decrease of \$0.30 from the prior year. The median single-family home value of \$305,400 increased \$10,200 over the prior fiscal year median value of \$295,200. The median single-family tax bill, exclusive of the CPA surcharge and Fire District tax, increased \$87 from \$5,196 in FY 2020 to its current level of \$5,283.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the talented and professional staff of Town Hall for their unwavering support and dedication in providing the best possible services to the citizens of Williamstown. They are an inspiration and a model for how collaboration and teamwork lead to positive outcomes. I also extend my gratitude to Board of Assessors members Thomas Elder and David Westall for their knowledge and expertise in support of providing fair and equitable assessments.

Respectfully,
Christopher J. Lamarre, MAA
Chairperson

WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Computations for Determining Fiscal year 2021 Tax Rate

<i>Town Meeting Date</i>	<i>Total Appropriations Each Meeting</i>	<i>From Tax Levy</i>	<i>From Free Cash</i>	<i>From Other Available Funds</i>	<i>From Enterprise Funds</i>	<i>CPA Funds</i>
8/18/2020	25,471,284	21,199,738	675,551.00	201,894.00	3,087,842	306,259.00
Totals	25,471,284.00	21,199,738.00	675,551.00	201,894.00	3,087,842.00	306,259.00

Local Expenditures.....	\$ 25,606,189.17
Cherry Sheet Offsets & Other Amounts.....	11,987.00
Overlay.....	83,595.17

Tax Rate Summary

1. Gross Amount to be Raised.....	25,606,189.17
2. Estimated Receipts and Available Funds.....	7,625,329.84
3. Net Amount to be Raised by Taxation.....	\$ 17,980,859.33
4. Real Property Valuation.....	\$1,015,539,255
5. Personal Property Valuation.....	\$ 23,816,776
6. Total Property Valuation.....	\$1,039,356,031
7. Tax Rate 17.30	
8. Real Property Tax.....	17,568,829.11
9. Personal Property Tax.....	412,030.22
10. Total Taxes Levied on Property.....	\$ 17,980,859.33

Recap Abatements and Exemptions

Abatements

Real Estate	\$ 32,098.65
Personal Property	\$ 256.98

Exemptions

Clause 41C	\$ 3,000.00
Clause 22, 22E	16,200.00
Clause 17D	1,750.00
Clause 37	875.00
Clause 42	0.00
Clause 18	0.00

Total.....	\$ 54,180.63
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Recap Motor Vehicle Commitments

	<i>Calendar Year</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>Excise</i>
<i>Commitments</i>			
7	2020	\$ 1,059,336	\$ 2,875.85
1-3	2021	\$ 29,438,365	\$ 692,735.00
4-5	2021	\$ 3,988,965	\$ 36,117.09
Totals		\$ 34,486,666	\$ 731,727.94

Abatements

<i>Number</i>	<i>Excise</i>
212	\$ 19,456.17
Totals	\$19,456.17

FOR A DETAILED REPORT SEE TREASURER'S SUMMARY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Andrew Groff, AICP, Community Development Director

Ryan Contenta, CBO, Building Commissioner

Travis Fachini, Local Inspector

Jeffrey Kennedy, RS, Health Inspector

Joseph Beverly, Inspector of Wires

Michael Lahey, Inspector of Plumbing and Gas

Claire Klammer, Administrative Assistant

The Community Development staff are committed to public safety and community support, working to assist all members of the community throughout each stage of the development process. The Department oversees development activities including, the Building Officials, Board of Health, Health Inspector, Planning, and Land Use. These basic functions of the Department work together to forward the goal of protecting the town's built and natural environment to ensure a safe, healthy, and thriving Williamstown. The State Building Code, Board of Health Regulations, The Wetlands and Rivers Protection Acts, as well as the Town's Zoning Bylaw, Sign Bylaw and Subdivision Regulations are all enforced by the Department and the various volunteer community boards that the Department works with in order to achieve this goal. Below are reports from the Department's Building Officials and the Director, responsible for working with our land use and planning boards.

Building Officials

Ryan Contenta, Building Commissioner

Travis Fachini, Local Inspector

Joseph Beverly, Inspector of Wires

Michael Lahey, Inspector of Plumbing and Gas

Williamstown's Building Officials issued 611 Building Permits with an estimated construction dollar value of \$29,315,103.43 for the calendar year 2021. These range from small residential work such as replacement windows to new homes to commercial construction projects. The Department continued to work closely throughout the year with Williams College on various projects. This past year Williams College has completed the Mission Park loading dock and created office spaces in existing buildings. In non-college work this year Photec's project on 330 Cole Ave completed the construction of 46 apartments. We also saw many single-family home renovations and a couple of very large homes built in town.

In addition to reviewing permit applications and plans and inspecting ongoing projects, the Building Officials are responsible for performing annual reviews of certain public buildings throughout the community. 126 Buildings were inspected and received valid Certificates of Inspection in 2021. The Commonwealth requires that all establishments where alcoholic beverages are consumed be inspected jointly by the Building and Fire Departments. These inspections are done once a year and a valid inspection certificate is a requirement for an alcoholic beverage license. This requirement helps to ensure your safety in the event of an emergency at any of Williamstown's liquor license holding establishments.

Another part of the Building Department's responsibilities is in Emergency Management. Natural disasters such as high winds, flooding, and heavy snow and ice can result in damage to buildings. This year, high winds caused multiple houses and accessory structures to be damaged by fallen trees. Unfortunately, fires are also a reality with any structure. A fire can cause minor damage such as smoke and soot to major structural damage. When

damage to a structure happens, the Building Department and Fire Department work together with the property owner to assess the damage and help them to move forward with the repairs.

Your Williamstown Building Officials are dedicated individuals who strive to ensure that the built environment of Williamstown is a safe place to live, work, and enjoy. We wish you all a happy and safe 2022.

Williamstown Community Development - Building Department Building and Trades Permits Issued 2021	
New Single-Family Houses	6
Solar Photovoltaic	42
Total Building Permits	655
Wire Permits	262
Plumbing Permits	104
Gas Permits	97

Planning and Land Use

Community Development Director, Andrew Groff, AICP

The Planning and Land Use portion of the Community Development Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement for all of the land use regulations governing development in town and staff support for the Boards and Commissions that have permitting and regulatory responsibility for these laws and regulations.

A significant part of our work involves providing support to all members of the community who are investigating the possibility of changing how their land is used. When someone is researching potential development, whether the proposal is a small home addition or a large commercial building, the planner is generally the first town official you will see when undertaking a project. It is our job to help citizens make sense of these laws and regulations and ensure the permitting process is simple, fair and equitable for all stakeholders of any size project.

In addition to assisting the public with navigating the Massachusetts land use law, our office is responsible for the staff support, including research, analysis, and GIS mapping capabilities to five of Williamstown's local boards and commissions.

We also are involved in many different aspects of community life in Williamstown and some exciting initiatives were underway in 2021. The department began a contract with the Regenerative Design Group out of Greenfield to take a fresh look at the management of the Spruces. Maximillian Construction began work for MassDOT on the Mohawk Bike Path which will be ending at the far end of the Spruces. This made 2021 the perfect time to think about the future of the park and how it is managed. The Town worked with Regenerative and a Williams College intern this past summer, Maxine Ng, to study the existing use pattern at the park and we were pleased to learn just how active a part of our community life it has become. We're still working on concepts for managing the park's landscape, usage, and ecology in early '22. We hope to finalize some management concepts for the park at the same time as we celebrate the opening of the Town's new bike path. Other exciting planning projects were just getting started in '21. The Town appointed a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and is working with Resilience Planning and Design on our first major Town Plan in 20 years. We are also working with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission on an update to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan and a new Housing Needs Assessment. These are being generously funded by the state through the Community Compact program.

We also were able to receive a grant from the Mohawk Woodlands Partnership for replacement of street trees on the Town Green. That should be underway in spring of '22. With both the state and federal governments rolling out many different programs for our local communities we will continue to be focused on making sure Williamstown gets access to such funding for important planning and community development activities.

The Boards and Commissions that we work with, along with a brief description of each board are;

- Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is responsible for administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Act (the "Wetlands Protection Act"), this legislation requires approval for activities that involve "digging, dredging, or altering" wetlands or areas near wetlands. The Commission also oversees the management of nine parcels of land owned by the Town which are dedicated to a variety of conservation and recreation goals. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. and are often preceded by site visits to assess field conditions for projects that are brought to the Commission through the Wetlands Act review process. The Planner attends all of the Commission's meetings to provide staff support and also acts as the Conservation Agent, handling enforcement and other day to day issues of the Commission.

- Historical Commission

The Historical Commission reviews projects for compliance with the Demolition Delay Bylaw. The Planner reviews and processes these applications. The Commission meets on an as needed basis.

- Planning Board

The Planning Board is an elected Board, responsible for overseeing the long-term land use patterns of Williamstown through the Zoning Bylaw, Subdivision Rules, and Master Planning process. The Planner is responsible for the review of all plans and permit applications that come before the Board and ensures they are complete and distributed to all interested parties. The Planner also provides significant time in staff support to the board. Working with individual members on research projects and possible zoning bylaw, and subdivision regulation amendments. The Planner is also responsible for the maintenance of the Board's official maps and frequently updates the Board on important legislation and other planning issues.

- Sign Commission

The Sign Inspector is responsible for reviewing all sign applications and may issue any sign which fully complies with the Sign Bylaw; any deviation from the bylaw requires Sign Commission approval. The Sign Inspector is also the enforcing authority under the bylaw. Fines may be assessed under the non-criminal disposition provisions of the Code of the Town of Williamstown. The Sign Commission meets the 4th Thursday of every month.

- The Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board (ZBA) hears and decides petitions arising from the application of Williamstown's Zoning Bylaws. These petitions fall into four categories, Special Permits, Variances, Administrative Appeals, and Comprehensive Permits. The Planner is responsible for the review of all of the ZBA's permit applications and ensures they are complete and distributed to all interested parties. Ensuring completion can involve plan review meetings with project stakeholders and other town officials. The Board meets on the third Thursday of every month.

These are all brief descriptions of each Board's responsibilities; please see each individual Board's report for a more in-depth description of all the business the Boards, Commissions and our department have been working on for the past year.

Health Department

Jeffrey C. Kennedy, RS, Health Inspector (since 1995)

Although the numbers change from year to year, the narrative doesn't. Last year I wrote 'EXCEPT FOR 2020.' 2021 became 2020: Part 2.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to be the primary consumer of time and energy for the Health Department. When the State and the country were locked down, we were out and about, working with people and businesses as the ever-changing rules and regulations on how to operate during a pandemic were promulgated and pushed out. It seems all other functions had to take a back seat to dealing with the lifestyle changes, and the myriad of calls and questions that COVID-19 engendered. Meetings (via Zoom and WebEx) became the staple diet of the Health Inspector. Increased cooperation with our colleagues in the County and with the Northern Berkshire Regional Planning Committee became the norm. Workload began with morning coffee upon awakening, and ended just as the lights were put out for sleep; then it started over again the next day. Weekends became Workends. Public Health everywhere was tested; we learned, we adapted, we overcame.

At the beginning of 2021, vaccines to prevent and reduce the severity of the COVID-19 infection were approved. Massive coordination and long hours were put in by the local vaccination sites to push through a population based upon a greatest susceptibility to serious infection or death, down to the least susceptible population. The large-scale vaccination effort resulted in a change in how to operate in the pandemic environment.

In May of 2021, the State relaxed a lot of mandates and orders regarding dealing with the COVID pandemic. Still the questions, phone calls and zoom meetings continued. Then the Delta variant arrived, perhaps more problematic than the original virus. Boards of Health began their efforts to protect the population. The Williamstown Board of Health, rather than relying on mandates, chose to increase education to the public concerning the easiest personal preventive measure to be used, as well as strongly advocating for vaccination. At the end of 2021 the Omicron variant arrived; less deadly but more infectious than previous variants. Yet vaccination and appropriate personal protection significantly reduced the numbers of deaths in relation to infections.

But it becomes important to keep the standard narrative because public health normally operates 'under the radar'; when things are going well, you're not supposed to notice. So, the narrative will remain primarily the same each year to remind the resident of the function of the Health Inspector, and the Sealer of Weights and Measures.

Health inspection functions in Williamstown are mandated by State laws and regulations, and by local Board of Health regulations. The inspection and monitoring requirements are many, and include, but are not limited to, food establishments, bathing beaches, septic systems, private wells, housing, swimming pools, tanning facilities, refuse and recycling, manufactured housing communities, beaver control, recreational camps, and nuisances affecting the public health.

The Health Inspector for the town holds licenses as a Registered Sanitarian, a Soil Evaluator, and a Septic System Inspector. All licenses require a commitment for continuing education in the various aspects of their applicable disciplines. Registered Sanitarians are required to accrue 12 contact hours each year; Soil Evaluators and Septic System Inspector must accrue 10 hours every 3 years.

Did you know that over 10% of the boards of health in the United States are located in Massachusetts? Functions that in other states are handled at the state or county level are under the purview of local boards of health. Boards of health or their designated agents have the same responsibilities, and are required to perform the same duties no matter the size of their community. In rural western Massachusetts,

boards and their agents do not have the luxury of specializing in certain aspects of a board of health's day-to-day responsibilities. They are general practitioners of public health. It's what makes public health in this side of the Commonwealth both interesting and challenging.

Towards the end of 2017, the Board of Health began using (along with the rest of the Community Development Department) the Viewpoint™ online permitting system. All permit applications are now completed online. This has rendered the old database counting moot; therefore, accurate annual numbers will not be possible.

Food Establishment inspections are performed on restaurants, cafeterias, dining facilities, bed and breakfasts, non-profit organizations serving an occasional meal for a fee or donation, and retail stores. Inspections look at food handling, facility infrastructure and equipment, and employee cleanliness and appearance. Efforts are made to work with the establishments to upgrade their facilities and improve practices, if needed, to ensure patrons are getting a safe meal. New and upgraded establishments require that an application and plan are submitted for review. A schedule of all new equipment with specification sheets are also required.

- The Health Inspector was able to perform 86 establishment inspections, when pandemic response duties allowed.

The Board of Health issues retail establishment licenses to individual vendors selling processed foods at a farmers' market. The Board of Health must assess the facilities available to the farmer's market, and prohibit any food-handling operation that cannot be safely performed. In addition, the Board of Health may prohibit the sale of certain food items if the items cannot be handled and maintained in accordance with 105 CMR 590.000 requirements.

- Permits issued - 5

The Board of Health requires all rental units to have undergone an inspection within 12 months prior to occupancy by the current tenant. The units are inspected for compliance with 105 CMR 410.000 Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation, State Sanitary Code, Chapter II. Every unit that meets the standards is issued a Certificate of Compliance (CoC). Other conditions also apply, depending upon the length of tenancy. However various houses that are 'for sale' have been made rentals until such time as the dwelling is sold. In addition, complaint inspections, which are not part of the CoC database, were also performed, resulting in Orders to Correct being issued, and occasionally, filings in housing court. Rental dwelling unit inspections, which had been suspended in September of 2020, were reinstated in September of 2021.

- 24 Units were inspected in 2021

Every house without access to community water must have a private water supply approved by the Board of Health or its Agent. The Board requires that the proposed well is sited by a Professional Engineer or Registered Sanitarian to meet all safety setbacks, and is drilled by a Massachusetts registered well driller. Following drilling, water quality and quantity reports are submitted by the driller and/or property owner to the Board for review to determine that the supply is sufficient for the house, and meets chemical and bacterial standards. If all information is acceptable, a Certificate of Compliance is issued. A building permit for a new home will not be issued for homes on a private water supply until the Board issues a Well Certificate of Compliance. The Board of Health also requires most of this information for ANY well intended to supply water for ANY purpose. Many geo-thermal system wells have been permitted recently.

- 2 well permits were issued.

Every home without access to community sewer must have an on-site sewage disposal system that meets the requirements of 310 CMR 15.000, usually referred to as Title 5. Existing on-site systems must be inspected at time of sale or other title transfer, and failing systems or components must be upgraded to meet Title 5 standards. A new system starts with a soil evaluation (perk test) performed by a licensed Soil Evaluator and witnessed by the Board of Health. This ensures that the on-site soils absorption system (leaching field) is correctly placed and sized for the home it services. A Professional Engineer or Registered Sanitarian will submit a design plan to the Board for review. Following review, if the plan meets the provisions of Title 5, and if a properly trained and licensed installer is contracted by the property owner, a permit to construct is issued. Inspections are conducted throughout the installation process by the Board and the designer to monitor compliance with the design plans. Any changes to the plans must be approved by the Board prior to implementation. If the system is constructed properly, and certificates of construction compliance are received by the Board from the engineer and installer, a Certificate of Compliance is issued for the system. Upgrades of failed existing system components are also evaluated for Title 5 compliance prior to installation. The Board of Health requires that all installers working in Williamstown must have attended a training course recognized by the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association and have satisfactorily passed the given exam. In addition, the Board requires that all new or upgraded septic tanks have an effluent filter installed at the tank outlet. This helps prevent field loss through system clogging due to inattention. In 2015, the Board of Health passed regulations (effective January 1, 2015) requiring that the agent of the Board of Health witness all septic system inspections. This will help ensure a consistent standard in applying various provisions of the Title5 regulation. The Board of Health is also requiring any inspections performed on vacant dwellings be re-inspected after occupancy. This will ensure that a buyer is not buying a dwelling with a system that would normally fail if used would be issued an inspection pass because it was not in normal operating mode.

If a Title 5 Septic System Inspection show that systems have a garbage grinder and/or a water softener discharging into the system, property owners are now informed by letter that their system is in noncompliance, and are instructed to remove the garbage grinder, and discharge the water softener to a drywell. Failure to do so could result in a damaged septic system requiring costly replacement or repair.

2021 Saw a great demand in the buying and selling of housing stock in Berkshire County.

- Title 5 Inspections witnessed – 15
- Septic System permits issued – 2

Companies which haul septage are required to obtain permits from the Board of Health in each town they serve. Haulers must keep a record of individual systems served, which is presented to the appropriate wastewater treatment plant. The plant forwards these records to the Board of Health, which keeps a database on how often each system is pumped. At times, these records will allow the Board to determine if an on-site system is functioning properly.

- Septage haulers permitted to operate in the Town of Williamstown – 4

The Board of Health from time to time examines all camps, motels, hotels, manufactured housing communities and cabins licensed by it and if, upon such examination, such camp, motel, hotel, manufactured housing community or cabin is found to be in an unsanitary condition, the Board may, after notice and a hearing, suspend or revoke such license.

- There are 11 motels, 2 hotels, and 1 manufactured housing community in the Town of Williamstown.

Williamstown hosts many recreational camps for children each summer. Camps must meet the standards set down by the State in 105 CMR 430.000, Minimum Sanitation and Safety Standards for Recreational Camps for

Children. Fortunately, most camps are operating on the Williams College campus, which has dormitories, dining facilities, and other infrastructure subject to periodic building and health inspections. The Board ensures that camp staff and counselors have undergone criminal and sexual offender record checks, that campers and staff have appropriate medical checks, that a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner is contracted as a healthcare consultant, and that adequate medical staff and equipment are available to meet the campers' needs.

- Recreational Camps for Children permits - 3

All public and semi-public (motels, condominiums, clubs, schools, institutions, etc.) pools and hot tubs/spas are required to be inspected at least annually. Inspections look at the design and construction of the pool, safety equipment and communication devices, first aid equipment, and water quality. All public and semi-public pools are required to have a Certified Pool Operator and perform inspections and water chemical testing at prescribed intervals.

- Public and semi-public pools and hot tubs permits - 9

Margaret Lindley Park has the only authorized public bathing beach in Williamstown. Beach bacterial sampling of the impoundment water at Margaret Lindley Park is periodically tested from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and has always showed excellent results, well within standards set by the state (No single E. coli sample shall exceed 235 colonies per 100 ml. and the geometric mean of the most recent five E. coli samples within the same bathing season shall not exceed 126 colonies per 100 ml). This facility continues to be very popular with many people in North Berkshire County. MLP was allowed to reopen in 2021. It remains popular and had excellent bacterial water quality results.

The Board of Health licenses and regulates through inspection the maintenance of safe and appropriate indoor air quality in ice skating rinks that utilize ice resurfacing equipment powered by combustible fuels which produce carbon monoxide or nitrogen dioxide and thereby protect the health, safety and well-being of the public.

- The Williams College Lansing Chapman Rink is inspected annually, usually during the Bay State Games. Although the rink is primarily serviced with an electric ice surfacing machine, it is still licensed and inspected because the seldom used back-up surfer is propane powered.

The Board of Health also regulates nuisances and noisome trades, and may restrict and/or prohibit any trade or employment, nuisances, sources of filth, injurious odors and potentials for sickness, which may endanger the public health, safety, or welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown. Many nuisance complaints are received anonymously by telephone, but still require follow-up and inspection.

Refuse haulers operating in the Town of Williamstown must be permitted by the Board of Health, and must offer recycling services.

- Number of permitted Refuse Haulers – 7

Williamstown has joined the Berkshire County Public Health Alliance to coordinate public health efforts on a larger scale and to assist in planning and implementation of public health functions to smaller communities.

The Board of Health also oversees the duties of the Animal Inspector. Towards the end of 2015, the Williamstown Police Department assumed the Animal Control responsibilities, and the Animal Inspector responsibilities related

to domestic animals and rabies control. The Health Inspector remained the Animal Inspector responsible for Stables and Livestock.

The Town of Williamstown has a very proactive and involved public health program; there is much expected in this town of 7000 +. The Health Inspector continues to use federal, state and local regulations in a reasonable manner to ensure the spirit and intent of each are used for the general maintenance and improvement of the community's public health needs.

Sealer of Weights and Measures

Jeffrey C. Kennedy

The Health Inspector, beginning in 2011, has assumed the position of Sealer of Weights and Measures, passing both the written and field test portions of certification. Additionally, there is a continuing education requirement for Certified Sealers. The Sealer attends meetings twice a year in Eastern Massachusetts. The meetings are hosted by the Massachusetts Weights and Measures Association.

The duties of the Sealer include:

Enforcement of, and compliance with, Massachusetts General Law chapter 98, sections 34 through 56D pertaining to weighing and measuring devices, including, but not limited to:

- Balances and Scales
- Weights
- Capacity Measures
- Liquid Measuring Devices
- Fuel Pumps
- Linear Measuring Devices

Collection of fees for each inspection performed, to be turned in to the Department of Inspection Services for deposit with the Treasurer/Collector.

The accurate and timely submission of all reports required by state and local authorities.

Ensuring all equipment is maintained and repaired, and that certification of weights and standards is accomplished when needed.

- In 2021, 46 gasoline and diesel pumps, 1 test weight set and 26 scales were inspected and certified.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

Philip R. McKnight, Chair

The Community Preservation Act (CPA), adopted by the Town in 2002, permits Williamstown to address important community needs under the terms of the law, including:

- Acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources;
- Acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space;
- Creation, preservation, and support of affordable housing; and
- Acquisition of land for recreation and preservation of recreational resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts supplements funds that Williamstown raises directly through the CPA surcharge on real property taxes. The match was 100% for the first five years and then steadily declined as a direct result of the economic recession in 2008-2009 to a level as low as 25%. As a result of recent amendments to the CPA, the match in recent years has become substantially higher. The Town's Community Preservation Committee makes a recommendation to Town Meeting every year on how CPA revenues should be spent. The Committee's eight members consist of representatives from the Town's Conservation Commission, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Housing Authority, Planning Board, Select Board, Town Manager, and an at-large community member.

The Committee held public information sessions and public meetings beginning in the fall in which applications were received and funding proposals were discussed. Ultimately, the following proposals were recommended for funding or other action by Town Meeting in May 2021, and they were approved by majority vote:

1. An amount of \$218,722.50 under the terms of the CPA, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust in unrestricted funds for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown, including support for the Northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity of at least \$40,000, all in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee;
2. An amount of \$5,000 under the terms of the CPA, to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for FY 2022, all in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee;
3. An amount of \$50,000 under the terms of the CPA, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Historical Museum for the preservation of the Dolan-Jenks Barn, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, all-in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee;
4. An amount of \$56,000 under the terms of the CPA, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation for a portion of the local share of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction for approximately 18 acres of agricultural property, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, all in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee.

In any given year the Committee anticipates receiving more worthwhile projects for consideration than can be responsibly advocated or funded. In addition, the Committee may choose to set aside certain amounts of available funds for future projects. Because of this, and to help guide its deliberations, the Committee has established a number of project investment criteria which applicants must address and encourages interested parties to read about the CPA and the investment criteria on the Town's website.



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tim Carr, Chairman

The Conservation Commission is the citizen board responsible for the management of Town-owned conservation lands and for the administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Act. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. Site visits are often conducted prior to the public hearings so that the Commission members can better understand what is being proposed by the applicants, what specific wetland and river resources are in need of protection and how best to provide the protection.

Current members of the Conservation Commission are Tim Carr (Chair), Cory Campbell (Vice Chair), Henry Art, Lauren Stevens, Andrew Galusha, Katie Wolfgang, and Phil McKnight. Andrew Groff serves as the Conservation Agent on behalf of the Conservation Commission and the Town of Williamstown Department of Community Development.

Previous Town Meetings have placed nine Town properties in the care and custody of the Commission: The Stone Hill Woodlot, Margaret Lindley Park, The Hunter Lot, The Deans Lot, Bloedel Park, The Pine Cobble Lot, Bridges Pond, the Lowry Lot, and the Burbank Lot. The latter two properties are currently used for agriculture under special use permits. The Commission is pleased to report that, despite the challenges of the year, we successfully extended our partnership between the Commission and the Rural Lands Foundation on trial

maintenance on Town Lands. This work is all about making our outdoor nature based recreational assets easier to navigate and more welcoming and accessible to all our friends and neighbors. We conclude this year with a full report from Dan Gura on the Trail Crew's activities in 2021.

Trails Report from Dan Gura, Williamstown Rural Lands

2021 was a big year for Williamstown's trail system. With the onset of the Covid pandemic in 2020, our town's trails became more popular than ever. High-use numbers continued through 2021. The increase in traffic, combined with last summer's unceasing rainstorms, have been hard on trail surfaces. Fortunately, Williamstown Rural Lands, in partnership with the Town of Williamstown and the Williams Outing Club, has sought in recent years to make our trails more sustainable and durable.

From 2016-2020, our focus was on raising the quality of existing trails. In 2021, in addition to seasonal maintenance, we focused on larger infrastructure projects throughout the valley. To name just a few: In the Hopper, we rebuilt a bridge on the Money Brook Cutoff Trail that had been damaged last winter by a fallen tree. On Stone Hill, we brought in a grip hoist to install step-stones along the Stone Hill Road Trail. And, we finished a multi-year project at the start of the Pine Cobble Trail by installing the last in a series of log steps down a stretch of perpetually muddy trail. In October, with the help of a MassTrails grant, we hired a Student Conservation Association trail crew to rebuild the lower section of the popular Berlin Pass Trail.

Finally, 2021 marked the completion of another major project: The installation of trailhead kiosks throughout town. In an effort to make hiking more accessible to residents and visitors, we commissioned the creation of trail maps and posted them on kiosks throughout town. Each trailhead kiosk displays a detailed map, along with a hike description and other helpful information. An accompanying brochure that highlights each featured trail is available at the Rural Lands offices at Sheep Hill. Come by for a visit and pick one up!

It goes without saying (but needs to be said!) that all of this work relies on the effort of countless volunteers, our summer interns, and the support of the Town of Williamstown, the Williams Outing Club, the Williamstown Community Chest, the Madrono Foundation, and MassTrails.



COUNCIL ON AGING
Brian O'Grady, Director

Twenty Twenty-One was definitely a tale of two years wrapped in one package. We arrived in January still in a state of Covid-19 operations. The programs we were offering were restricted in participation to a maximum of ten participants masked and socially distanced. This bit of the new abnormal worked very well for exercise classes and Tai Chi but was not good for other activities we offered to beat the isolation doldrums some folks had experienced. We also offered Yoga classes outside on the back lawn during the preceding summer and fall but had moved it to a zoom platform when the weather became colder; participants would be too physically close to each other. So there we were, open for business and yet not quite booming.

As January progressed, there was a serious sense of growing anxiety around virus spikes and the impending release of a vaccine. We used the electronic newsletter to keep folks apprised of the situation. For the majority of the previous year, our news blog had focused on local stores and restaurants, openings, where to locate valuable commodities like paper goods and masks, etc. By the end of January, we began to reflect on the imminent opportunity to get vaccinated. When the vaccine started becoming available in early February, the telephones at the Harper Center rang incessantly all day long. It was an interesting, stressful and somewhat frustrating experience.

When the vaccine program was finally activated, there were three vaccination sites located in Berkshire County, the closest to Williamstown was located in the parish hall of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church in North Adams, the furthest likely at Fenway Park in Boston. We had all thought that the prevalence of super vaccination sites in eastern Massachusetts would enable Berkshire residents to effectively vaccinate everyone here in the order of availability. Didn't quite happen that way.

When slots were opened, we began to register people for vaccines according to the State's established formula- eldest first, with decreasing age benchmarks. It soon became apparent that there wasn't enough vaccine to go around and while we were able to register quite a few local elders immediately it soon also became apparent that "open to all" literally meant everyone. So soon, residents of metro Boston, Worcester and points east began arriving in North Adams for their shots. The registration website was state wide, there were sites dedicated to hunting and registering folks for vaccines so areas with better WIFI access were able to acquire appointments faster than some of us. It was frustrating to log onto a site which you knew had 30 open slots only to see them literally vanish. It was hard on COA staff; it was harder on local residents who were losing slots to people who live 100 miles away.

We persevered. At one point we had 4 people setting up appointments and when the vaccine became more readily available, there were days when we made 70 separate appointments. It was a unique experience!

In total, we estimate that we assisted to arrange about 1000 first and second vaccine doses for local elders from all over. In addition to Williamstown, we responded to calls from elders from North Adams, Adams, New Ashford and Hancock. We tried to be especially helpful to neighbors with limited access to WIFI. During this process we made all sorts of new acquaintances, most of the folks we were able to help were wonderful to work with, happy to get a vaccine appointment and gracious when we had to let them down. We also discovered that a significant number of local elders were connected to WIFI and had email addresses. This was helpful for return notices and especially for those wanting to connect with SVMC for appointments. It also allowed us to expand our contact lists to provide information and community news electronically via direct email or by directing people to the municipal website.

During this period, we also hosted 5 vaccine clinics for residents of local housing sites across Williamstown. In addition, members of the Williamstown COA staff and volunteers worked as volunteers at the North Adams clinic helping out there after work and on weekends. The vaccine period lifted everyone's spirits, provided a serious measure of protection for vaccinated individuals, allowed us to completely restart all suspended activities and for those of us who worked to get people vaccinated, it was an experience none of us will ever forget. In May, the Governor rescinded, the Massachusetts mask mandates were lifted, and the new abnormal became bearable.

In June we began to host programs shuttered by Covid. Bridge and Bingo returned to enthusiastic players. Entertainment activities returned to Friday afternoons, we began to host in house meals, breakfast events and cookouts once more. Most folks had a sense of relief that the worst was likely over. It was a good summer filled with lots of joyous reunions.

We also underwent major changes at Harper last summer. After 10 years as an extraordinary outreach worker in Williamstown, Marion Quinn-Jowett retired in July. During her tenure here at the WCOA, Marion had raised the bar for outreach staff all over the county. Marion was someone who colleagues sought out for advice and collaboration. Her presence will no doubt be missed. We wish her well in her retirement endeavors and hope she visits us often.

In mid-June, Sarah Kline was hired to succeed Marion and after a month of shadowing, Sarah took the reins alone in August and has established herself as someone to call to help troubleshoot problems. Sarah had worked with us before in different capacities, most recently as a Care Coordinator with Amedisys and immediately before that as the Admissions Director at Williamstown Commons. She's been here long enough now to have learned the rhythms of life at Harper and has worked through the fall Covid spikes, helped initiate and re-launch suspended programming.

After our hiatus in the throes of the new abnormal, we're back full steam. In the summer we were able to offer the Aging Mastery Program with Jennifer Munoz once more. AMP is an award-winning program which focuses on all the nuances one can master as we age.

Throughout the entire Covid period our van stayed on the road, first with limited capacity per trip and finally as a fully scheduled transport option, resuming regular operational routes across North Berkshire and beyond. In January, Rick Andrews succeeded Jackie Lemieux as our primary van operator. Jackie had retired last year and our regular riders have been equally enthusiastic about Rick as our man behind the wheel. We began to schedule localized trips, restaurants for luncheons are really popular! One night in December, Dave Larabee and Sarah filled the van to capacity 3 times for a holiday lights tour around the area. Riders enjoyed holiday carols singing along to holiday tunes and hot cocoa and goodies awaited the tourists when they got back!

We scheduled and hosted the AARP Tax Aide program in the spring, not exactly face to face as in the past but folks certainly had their taxes completed and filed.

In October revived our nutrition programming with Elder Services offering Grab and Go, food to go without the need or means testing. It has proven to be a popular option - think of it as take out!

We hosted Williams students who worked with elders to enhance their ability to use all sorts of cell phones, iPhones, Android devices and traditional flip phones.

As the year progressed, we became increasingly aware of the number of scams directed at elders ranging from identity theft to outright hacking. We know several individuals who were on the receiving end of serious scams, attempted asset thefts and computer ransom activity. Elliott Greenblott, an expert in fighting scams, identity

theft and other nefarious activities directed at elders joined us with members of the District Attorney's office to discuss these issues and provide strategies to avoid them, DA Harrington herself zoomed in to one session. Elliott has become a valuable resource for us here at Harper.

We were busy with programs, advocacy and other activities. It almost feels like we lived a full year in the six months after we reopened totally in June!

Of course there have been periodic bumps in the road, we closed for a couple days in October following a Covid scare and instituted a couple short term mask mandates during the Omicron virus stage. We also hosted a large booster clinic here in November with quite a few local residents acquiring booster shots. We also provided masks and home Covid tests to elders who wanted them. Hopefully, we won't have to do any of this again.

We post a weekly News and Notes blog on the Town website and Facebook page, the COA Facebook page, deliver copies electronically to folks who've joined our mailing list and make paper copies available to individuals lacking internet access for whatever reason. The blog keeps people apprised of activities here at the COA as well as important news and bits from elsewhere in the region. We're happy to add you to our growing list, contact us here at 413-458-8250 or stop by any weekday between 8:30 and 4:30. We're glad to see you! Join us! There will be more for you in Twenty-Two!

Respectfully submitted,

Brian O'Grady, Williamstown Council on Aging Director

DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pat McLeod, Library Director

www.milnelibrary.org



Opened to the public June 21, 2021

68,835 Items circulated

71,680 Items owned

120,320 downloadable items available

6,850 Active card holders

28,928 Interlibrary loans

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to close our doors in March of 2020, the library world had no idea how we would recreate the way we provide services and programs and connect our users to everything they need from their Town library. We managed through a year with many innovative ideas that libraries had never practiced before. The big question after reopening last summer fully to in-house, brick and mortar status was "What now?"

The last year has been full of unexpected surprises and some cliff-hangers at the ends of chapters! We're not sure what genre you'd classify our story of the last year: part tragedy, part adventure, sometimes science fiction, self-help and thankfully some humor, too.

With a repaired HVAC unit and all our safety protocols in place, we opened fully to the public. Social distancing and masks recommended. In August, masks were mandated by the Board of Trustees. Our front-line staff were instructed on protocols and logistics that changed many times to ensure their health and safety. The computer

lab was available and newspapers returned and visitors were asked to limit their time. It was a time of watching the metrics and variants and learning how to keep a library open during a difficult period.

Some really good things did happen this past year. We eliminated fines off all items except museum passes and our new hot-spots, this does not include interlibrary loans from other libraries. By removing fines, we are making it easy and equitable for all of our residents to access library materials. A staff member went in and manually removed all old fines. We were the first library to adopt a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policy in the Commonwealth. We held Saturday story times outside under the tent or in our new Community Room, throughout the summer. The library celebrated its 25th anniversary and we had pictures of the Dedication and a post-it board for our users to tell us what they love about their library. We also held a Pet Photo Contest for people to contribute pics of their pets and also a voting box. The library also participated at Williamstown Night Out.

We made sure to be what our community needed from us, and in this report, you'll find more detailed information on how we leveraged our strategic pillars of Literacy, Access, and Inclusion to serve our community like never before.

Special thanks to the staff and volunteers that have delivered unparalleled service throughout the past two years of this experience we are all living with.

Outside Our Walls

While the library reopened to the public in the summer of 2021, we continued to expand and promote our digital offerings.

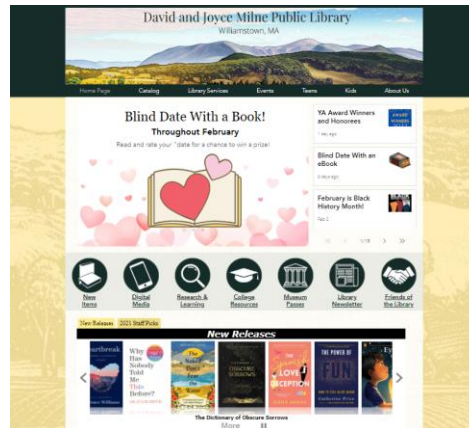
Digital Content

The library currently offers digital content in many categories through two library apps - Libby and Hoopla. Through Libby, patrons can borrow digital titles from the CW MARS digital collection, as well as other networks in the state of Massachusetts using the "Partner Libraries" feature. Hoopla was introduced to our patrons to complement the services provided by Libby, providing instant access to all categories of media that Libby offers, as well as music, film and television (notably including the content that many of our patrons previously enjoyed on Acorn TV.)

- Digital Circulation - Between Libby and Hoopla, Milne patrons checked out 39,352 titles in 2021, compared to 14,793 titles borrowed in 2020.
- Education - Transparent Language enables patrons to learn over 100+ languages and dialects through interactive speaking, listening, reading, and writing exercises.
- Online databases - Milne patrons have access to a comprehensive collection of Gale databases that span topics such as science, history, law, and literature. "Gale in Context" provides digestible information appropriate for elementary school and middle school students. Patrons are also able to search full-text articles from the New York Times and Boston Globe.
- Weekly Newsletter - A fun and informative e-newsletter is available every Friday. You can sign up from the Milne Library website and view the archive on our website. The newsletter informs patrons about library programs, services, resources, and collections in addition to featuring new titles, award-winners, and tie-ins to relevant current events. The goal of the newsletter is to encourage patrons to engage with all that the library has to offer, as well as to promote the friendly, approachable, community-focused identity of the library.

- Library Website - The Milne's website had a major overhaul in design, with a focus on creating a user-friendly resource for our patrons to use in tandem with their library experience. The new website provides a platform for us to promote library collections and events, share recordings of past events, readers advisory materials, and many educational and professional resources.

If you need help with any or all of these wonderful sources - just ask a librarian.



Library website new design

Buildings and Grounds

The newly renovated Teen Room opened this past fall and is a newly organized and furnished room for teens to visit and do homework, engage in conversation, read, play games and gather. The next project is the reference area that will be reconfigured and furnished to function more efficiently for staff and be more welcoming to library users. Both of these projects are possible through private donor support, including that of the Friends of the Milne Library.



New Teen Room

Adult Programming

In 2021, we scheduled programming for four three-month periods: winter, spring, summer and fall. All programs were virtual with only a few exceptions. Since virtual programming was the only option throughout most of the year for both libraries and presenters, we were able to engage speakers who may not have been able to speak for us under pre-pandemic circumstances.

A highlight of 2021 was a discussion between two scholars of Frederick Douglass, Professor Neil Roberts of Williams College and Pulitzer-Prize winning author, Professor David Blight of Yale University. In keeping with national events, Professor Nicole Mellow talked about voting in 2020, and Professor Alice C. Bradley provided a local perspective on climate change later in the year. The library, like the community, benefits greatly from the expertise and generosity of Williams professors.

We also hosted quite a few “passive” programs, meaning patrons can participate independently but no meetings take place. Blind Date with a Book occurred for the third year in a row but with a pandemic-appropriate approach: we provided an electronic form for patrons to request a “mystery” book based on selected criteria, in lieu of wrapping physical books for patrons to choose from in person. We also distributed Book Bingo cards for adults over the summer, and distributed “Found Poetry” kits throughout April for National Poetry Month.

The library also organized programming in line with the national summer reading program, “Tails and Tales.” These programs were all animal-themed (some with live animals) and included two “Dog with a Job” programs, Birding for Beginners, a talk about pet adoption and “Animal Yoga.” An in-person panel talk by three Williamstown residents who own chickens also took place, but not until October.

The library participated in several 2021 community-wide events: ArtWeek Berkshires and Climate Preparedness Week, both in September. We hosted two in-person art workshops for ArtWeek on pastel drawing and metalworking. For Climate Preparedness Week, we hosted a Pollinator Garden Tour in partnership with Bee Friendly Williamstown, a talk about climate change in Williamstown, and helped to publicize the statewide climate-related events organized by the Massachusetts Library System.

Other virtual presenters included college admissions experts, both local and/or well-known authors, a vaccination talk by Dr. James Lederer of the Berkshire Medical Center, a cat behaviorist, a Christmas Historian and both antiques and rare book appraisers. Several virtual classes were offered as well: two four-week Chair Yoga sessions and two American Sign Language sessions.

In addition, we hosted two in-person concerts which were rescheduled after being canceled in 2020: Sarah Clay and the StarCats, a jazz group; and Jeff Snow, a Celtic musician.

Due to low turnout at some events, we are considering how to make programs accessible to those who cannot attend when the programs take place or who cannot easily travel or access Zoom. There was discussion with Willinet about how and when to provide recordings, and even livestreams, of library programs both in 2021 and in the future. At present, both Willinet and our website house several recordings of 2021 presentations.

We always publicize our events. Our website and Facebook page continue to list upcoming events and programs, and print copies are always available in the library. We also share our schedule with the Chamber of Commerce, and sometimes post events on iBerkshires and The Berkshire Eagle.

The Friends of the Library support all programming for the library, including the Summer Reading program, all craft supplies, the tent in the courtyard and fees and stipends for performers, speakers, authors, and artists.



Dog with a job program Williamstown Police Department

Children's Department

This year we continued to do our best to help our patrons within the restrictions of the pandemic. We reopened to the public in July with a Storywalk and special Storytime around the theme of immigrants and their experiences celebrating America's Independence Day. The Summer Reading Program theme was Tails and Tales, and we held weekly Outdoor Storytimes as well as some great arts & crafts programs. Everyone seemed very happy to be back and able to socialize, even in a limited fashion. We did not resume our twice-weekly regular storytimes but we did try to have grab & go kits each week for kids who didn't make it in on Saturdays, and these were very popular.

We tried a different approach with regard to in-person entertainment this year, with some videos made by popular favorite Ed the Wizard. Ed showed us how to twist a progressively-harder series of animals, leading to a grand finale. The videos were made available on our website, and we provided balloons and hand-pumps to patrons. It's hard to quantify how many patrons were involved but we do know that we have plenty of balloons left for future needs.

After the summer, we tried to keep momentum going with Stuffed Animal Sleepovers, which combined a regular Pajama Storytime with a "slumber party" where stuffed friends were given the run of the library after hours. We documented the shenanigans each time in a photo-story on our website. Our Halloween party brought in a huge number of costumed kids for three sessions of stories, crafts, and candy. And we started a very popular weekly Read to A Dog event, where a patient dog named Nellie was read to by our young patrons, many of whom returned in subsequent weeks. It is documented that children reading aloud to a non-judging listener increases their reading skills and confidence. Woof!

We have made a few small changes in the Children's Room, mostly involving two under-used corner spaces which now hold a themed seasonal display including the relevant holidays, and a "Did You Know" corner featuring different exciting non-fiction titles which change on a regular basis. We strive to curate and build a collection that reflects the best children's literature has to offer, and to do so in a way that engages our patrons of all ages and backgrounds.



Read to a dog program

Teen Services

This past year saw a complete transformation of the Teen Room. The renovation began with removal of public computers and included new paint, carpeting, seating, workspaces and additional (and much needed) shelving. A stationary Chromebook with access to the internet and Library catalog was added. In November, an Open House was held for teens with raffle prizes, snacks and grab bag items.

In order for the renovation to occur each item had to be removed from the room and temporarily housed in an accessible way in other parts of the library. This provided the perfect opportunity to reassess the collection on hand literally book by book. The collection then was put in genres, such as sci-fi, fantasy, mystery, etc. in order to help our teen patrons find books that would be of interest to them.

Once lockdown rules were lifted, we were able to host events that would serve our teen community. On top of the Open House and summer reading program, we have held several art programs including an introduction to printmaking, a copper bookmark making workshop, a holiday art class and an escape room day.

The website has also seen a renovation of its own thanks to help from our staff member and web master. The two changing display areas within the teen room include a related blog on the teen website where patrons can easily access the books on display with one click. The website, Instagram site, and outreach to the high school are all ways our library can build a presence with our teens.



Printmaking workshop

The Friends of the Library

The Friends Board ended 2021 grateful for the strength of our membership campaign, our in-library Book Donation and Distribution Center, and our in-town Chapter Two Bookstore, all of which enabled us to deal with changing circumstances and seamlessly continue to raise money for the library. The steadfast support of our volunteers at both locations, and the collaboration with library Staff and Trustees, combined to keep us afloat and even exceed our expectations.

Throughout 2021, we watched our funds at work as various building improvements unfolded and a wide array of programs for adults and children enticed patrons back to the library which reopened with renovated spaces and new staff on board. The Friends transitioned from Zoom meetings to gathering at the library. Chapter Two Books on Spring Street, celebrating its 3rd anniversary, adapted to Covid circumstances and seasonal fluctuations, reopening 3-5 days a week.

Throughout all the changes, our members, volunteers, book donors, and customers kept our finances strong so we could support book and media collections, technology upgrades, staff professional development, and adult, teen, and children's programming. More visibly, the Friends contributed significantly to the library's ongoing Building and Grounds renovation projects.

The Friends is a volunteer organization which raises money to supplement non-operational needs of the library through an annual membership drive each December and the year-round sale of used books. The elected Board of Trustees governs the library and raises funds through an Annual Appeal each fall. Both groups support the library as a vital community resource for all residents.

The Library Board of Trustees

The library reopened to the public and resumed its regular hours of operation last year thanks to the Commonwealth's easing of pandemic restrictions and the dedicated work of the library director and staff to promote public health and safety.

A newly renovated community room for reading and public events, and a teen room designed for the interests of that age group greeted returning patrons.

The trustees approved a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policy, which is posted on the library website. We are submitting quarterly reports to the town in accordance with Article 37 and formed a DEI committee made up of trustees, library staff, and Friends of the Library to collaborate on training and education.

To make library materials more accessible, the trustees updated the circulation policy and eliminated late or overdue fines for most items the library owns. Other policies and bylaws are being updated along with our five-year strategic plan.

Generous financial support from the Friends and individual donors assisted with physical renovation projects, enhancing collections, upgrading technology, staff development, and programming for adults and children. Public contributions to the Trustees' Annual Appeal also support our efforts to constantly improve the experience of our patrons.

Trustee Peter Mehlin was recognized upon his retirement from the board for his many years of volunteer service as a trustee and to the Friends of the Library and to the library itself.

Current slate of the Board of Trustees:

Bridget Spann – Chair
Charles Bonenti – Vice Chair
Pat Wilk – Secretary
Micah Manary – Treasurer
Timothy Cherubini
Deb DiMassimo
Karen Kowitz

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND RACIAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ABOUT THE DIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The DIRE Advisory Committee was created by the Select Board in the Summer of 2020 and had its first meeting on July 27, 2020. The Select Board's charge to the DIRE Advisory Committee includes addressing inclusiveness, diversity, and equity through the development of forums for open and safe discussion of these issues, and for the development of actionable recommendations to improve the attainment of these goals in Williamstown for all residents. The DIRE Advisory Committee meetings are subject to Open Meeting Law and meeting times and agendas are posted in advance on the Town Calendar. DIRE meetings and virtual listening sessions are broadcast live on public access cable television and are also recorded for viewing anytime by Willinet:

<https://www.willinet.org/municipal-meetings/dire/>

The members of DIRE have adopted a set of guiding principles for the work of the advisory committee, which are available on the web site below. DIRE hosts a variety of forums for active listening to the concerns of a broad segment of the public and develops specific, actionable recommendations for improvements proposed for implementation by the Town of Williamstown. DIRE's recommendations are formulated through deliberations on the record in open meeting, with public comment encouraged. The recommendations are publicly posted on the Town's website at: <https://sites.google.com/williamstownma.gov/direcommittee/home>

The DIRE Advisory Committee began in 2020 initially comprised of nine members appointed by the Select Board with indeterminate terms. Of the initial nine members of the DIRE committee, seven resigned in 2021. We deeply appreciate their service. Three were professionals in the field of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and others had significant experience working in the field as a student, as educators and as an educational administrator. In 2021, the size of the committee was reduced to seven members, and staggered two-year terms were established.

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

The DIRE Advisory Committee convened in open meeting 22 times (approximately twice each month) during calendar year 2021. In addition, members of DIRE held seven community listening sessions during the calendar year 2021. Four listening sessions were held virtually (and recordings are available on Willinet) and three were held in-person: at the fire station, the Harper Center and the Holiday Walk.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

In calendar year 2021, the DIRE Advisory Committee developed and presented to the Select Board and Town Manager (and Temporary Manager) seven sets of recommendations to improve the inclusiveness, diversity, and equity in Williamstown for all residents, which included the following recommended actions:

2021-14 The DIRE advisory committee supports the passage of Massachusetts legislation, H.4944, An Act Providing for the Expungement of Racially Restrictive Covenants in Recorded Real Property Documents, which was developed by some residents of the neighborhood [comprising Berkshire Drive, Colonial Avenue and Orchard Lane], introduced by Rep. John Barrett, III, and co-sponsored by Sen. Adam Hinds which would streamline the otherwise complex legal process for expunging racist language from restrictive covenants by homeowners throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (Jan. 4, 2021)

2021-15. The DIRE advisory committee recommends that the Select Board also expressed its support for the passage of Massachusetts legislation, H.4944. (Jan. 4, 2021)

2021-23. The DIRE advisory committee in Resolution 2020-002 recommended that the Select Board promptly make a public statement describing the investigative actions that have taken place, if any, and identify in such a statement, the individuals who performed such investigation, and we now repeat this recommendation. (Jan. 4, 2021)

2021-24. The DIRE advisory committee recommends that the Select Board promptly release as public records the town's investigation and findings regarding the allegations in the Complaint involving sexual assault, sexual harassment, multiple workplace acts of discrimination and intolerance on the basis of race and/or religion, and other acts of inequity by employees of the Town of Williamstown, or if no such investigation and findings have been made, that the Select Board hire an independent investigator to determine the facts involving these allegations in the Complaint and issue a timely public report. (Jan. 4, 2021)

2021-33. The DIRE advisory committee recommends that chairpersons of Williamstown boards, committees and commissions that operate under Open Meeting Law consider their privilege and power to control and limit opportunities for public comment, and to be mindful that such power has been historically used to limit expressions of dissent and curtail minority viewpoints. (Mar. 1, 2021)

2021-35. The DIRE advisory committee further recommends that in the consideration of candidates for senior Town employee positions, such as a Town Manager or Police Chief, that Williamstown officials operate in an inclusive manner consistent with the spirit of Warrant Article 37 by specifically encouraging and considering community input, especially from traditionally marginalized groups. (Mar. 1, 2021)

2021-36. The DIRE advisory committee recommends that chairpersons of all Williamstown boards, committees and commissions review their meeting procedures to ensure that their meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities, as required by Open Meeting Law. (Mar. 1, 2021)

2021-41. The DIRE advisory committee makes the following recommendations to the Select Board and Town Manager to establish principles for conducting searches for the permanent Chief of Police and Town Manager, and for other vacancies of key employee positions that may arise:

A. Prioritize the establishment of a search committee that will include input from diverse community members, with particular emphasis given to recruiting and selecting members from traditionally marginalized groups;

B. Make a broad call for volunteers to serve on the search committee that includes outreach to local press and use of social media. Include local leaders of relevant grassroots organizations when making a call for volunteers;

- C. Be clear and specific about how volunteers should respond to the call to serve, providing deadlines for submitting interest, the mechanism through which interest should be submitted, and detailed instructions as to what information a statement of interest should include;
- D. Provide timelines for the expected duration of the volunteer commitment and an estimated workload for volunteers;
- E. Include one member of the DIRE advisory committee as an ex-officio member of each search committee;
- F. Be transparent about the selection criteria for the search committee members, including stating who will make the decisions of the volunteers on the search committee and what factors will be considered in making the decisions on composition of the search committee. One member of the DIRE committee should be included in the search committee selection process;
- G. Establish the search committee before finalizing or posting a job description so members of the committee may provide input on the job description and where and how it is posted;
- H. Facilitate communication between the search committee and any external search firm hired by Williamstown to encourage a broad search for a diverse array of candidates; and
- I. Ask the Williamstown hiring authority to publicly commit to following the recommendations of the search committee. (Mar. 15, 2021)

2021-51. The DIRE advisory committee supports the passage of Massachusetts legislation, H.1465, An Act Providing for the Expungement of Racially Restrictive Covenants in Recorded Real Property Documents, which was developed by some residents of the Williamstown neighborhood comprising Berkshire Drive, Colonial Avenue and Orchard Lane. The legislation has been introduced by Rep. John Barrett, III. If enacted, the legislation will provide a legal mechanism to streamline the process for expunging racist language from restrictive covenants by allowing petitions to remove such language to be heard by the land court department of the trial court. This will benefit many communities in Massachusetts. (Aug. 2, 2021)

2021-52. The DIRE advisory committee also recommends that the Select Board similarly express its support for the passage of Massachusetts legislation, H.1465. (Aug. 2, 2021)

2021-62. The DIRE Advisory Committee strongly recommends that Williamstown boards, committees, and agencies (including the Select Board and Interim Town Manager) begin to take actions to implement Article 37 [enacted at Town Meeting 2020] (Aug. 23, 2021)

2021-71. The DIRE Advisory Committee recommends that the Temporary Manager, Select Board, and Department of Public Works of Williamstown examine the sidewalks and curb ramps on the north side of Church Street to determine whether they are in compliance with safety and accessibility-related regulations, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the requirements of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB). (Nov. 29, 2021)

2021-72. The DIRE Advisory Committee recommends that the Town design and install ADA and MAAB-compliant sidewalks, curb ramps, and improved crossings along the north side of Church Street from Southworth Street to Cole Avenue. (Nov. 29, 2021)

2021-73. The DIRE Advisory Committee recommends that the Town apply for a 2022 grant from the Commonwealth under the Shared Streets and Spaces Program or other state or federal funding to implement such improvements. (Nov. 29, 2021)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Stephen Sheppard, Chair – Melissa Cragg, Vice Chair

Members of the Finance Committee serving during fiscal year 2020 were: Dan Caplinger, Paula Consolini, Melissa Cragg, Charles Fox, Elisabeth Goodman, Doris Karampatsos, Elaine Neely, Michael Sussman, and Stephen Sheppard.

At the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, the Finance Committee recommended appropriations to fund Town services for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 totaling \$8,670,658.07, a 5.9% (\$483,604) increase from the year prior. Increases are broadly based across most departments, particularly in Public Works which is expected to increase 9% (just over \$180,000) as staff progress into higher wage categories under union contracts and Public Safety which is expected to increase 6.9% (\$98,000).

Moody's Investor Services continues to assign a strong Aa1 bond rating to debt issued by our Town.

Shortly after the 2021 Town Meeting, the Finance Committee learned that the newly approved budget did not include funding for severance payments for two former employees and payments for interim staff performing their work. The under budgeted amounts relating to these two positions has been estimated to be \$150,000, 1.7% of the Town's \$8.67 million budget. Total expenses have been and continue to be closely monitored and notwithstanding the budgeting error are expected to come in under the original total budget.

Stephen Sheppard resigned from the Committee last summer and Melissa Cragg became Chairman. We are most delighted to welcome Fred Puddester to the Finance Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Chris Lemoine, Director

The Town of Williamstown's sewer collection system is quite aged and in need of improvement. The Sewer Department working with DPC Engineering of Ludlow Massachusetts, is now well into phase II of the inflow and infiltration study. In calendar year 2021, the study moved from the completion of the smoke study and into sonar testing of the system which will be completed in calendar year 2022. Data collection will be utilized to enter into phase III to create a Collection System Operation and Maintenance Plan to remove or prevent any sources of inflow and infiltration into the system, as well as outline the current and future needs of the collection system. The Town of Williamstown is not alone in developing corrective planning, this is part of a national goal to move from a reactive mode of emergency response and into a proactive predictive approach to improve and update aged sanitary sewer systems with the ultimate goal of protecting the environment. A close to home proactive approach to our goals was the rehab of the sewer lift stations on Cold Spring Road and the purchase of a sewer rodder as referred to in the Superintendent's report.

The Town completed a bank stabilization erosion control project along the Hoosic River in the area of the intersection of North Street and Syndicate Road. Immediate implementation was required as to protect a 24-inch diameter sanitary sewer line running parallel within 15 feet of the Hoosic River, used exclusively by the Town of Williamstown, and a 42- inch diameter sanitary sewer interceptor line running within 25 feet of the river, with shared use of the Town of Williamstown and the city of North Adams. Thanks to the cooperation and help from

the Town's Community Development Department, thank you Andrew, the Town received emergency permitting from the Massachusetts Department of Protection, the US Army Corp of Engineers and the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Plans were designed by Guntlow Associates and bid invitations implemented. A Massachusetts Highway State Highway Access Permit was obtained to install temporary road access for trucking and earth moving equipment. Great care and expense were taken to protect existing infrastructure. The required habitat specialist was on site daily during construction to monitor and protect plant and animal species as the project area was within the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas and mapped as Priority Habitat. The project was completed by August and infrastructure in the immediate area is protected from further erosion. Unfortunately, and anticipated, further erosion has progressed just downstream and will again jeopardize the 24-inch sanitary sewer line. A solution will be far more complicated as we have reached the limits set forth by regulatory agencies and a complete relocation of the sewer line will be necessary.

Clean up of surficial waste at the Hart Farm Landfill continued in calendar year 2021 and utilized in house equipment and staff from the Highway Department. Thank you, Craig and crew. On behalf of the Town, the contracted Engineer, CDM Smith has finalized all site assessments and the appropriate reports have been submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Solid Waste Division. The next step will be to develop a Corrective Action Plan based on conceptual designs conducted in 2021. A 60% design plan will be submitted along with the CAD report to all regulatory agencies for review and approval prior to a 100% design plan and construction implementation. We currently anticipate extensive embankment stabilization and protection along the stretch of the Green River bordering the landfill which will be subject to Army Corp, MassDep and Natural Heritage regulations.

Williamstown has taken ownership of the Town's Street light system and is in the process of retrofitting the system to utilize light emitting diode (LED) fixtures. Bids have been requested and a contractor has been awarded. Public Works has received shipment of all the fixtures and is currently waiting for delivery of control and fusing components. The retrofitting process should begin in March/April of 2022 and result in a more dependable system that uses far less energy, assisting the Town in reducing its carbon footprint and a step closer to achieving the Town's 2050 net zero greenhouse gas emission goal. Thank you to all the members of team street light.

An incidental yet notable procurement was the processing of gravel at the Public Works facility. With shared expense between the Public Works Departments, a contractor had been hired to utilize stockpiled clean fill accumulated from various excavation projects and convert it into usable gravel through the operation of crushing and screening on site. 2021 produced 6,228 tons of quality gravel at a cost of \$5.48 per ton as compared to the market price through the Berkshire Regional Purchasing Program rate of \$22.50 per ton for a total savings of \$105,999.35. Here at the DPW we like to call it our grand scale recycling program.

Along with the rest of the world, Public Works is experiencing much higher prices for goods, most notably vehicle and equipment parts. The supply chain has caused delays in receiving orders placed 8 months ago. Most notably two trucks, a one- and one-half ton truck to replace a truck taken out of service 10 months ago due to a failed drive train system and safe operation concerns. Delivery is expected in late Spring 2022. The other truck delivery on hold is a 10-ton Dump Truck with delivery not expected until the summer of 2023.

Other notables;

- Sewer jetting and rodding to 1 ½ miles of pipe on North Hoosac Road from Cole Ave to the North Adams boundary.
- The pond at Margaret Lindley Park was dredged and material was relocated to the Public Works stockyard, mixed with loam to be used as needed. Added 100 tons of beach sand at the park.

- Cut, bucked and split 50 cords of firewood salvaged from street tree work and storm damage and in use to heat the Public Works Facility.
- All Public Works employees have faithfully maintained all required continuing education requirements for their Hoisting Engineer, Backflow Testing, Cross Connection Surveyor and Water Supply Operator Licenses.
- New solar powered flashing LED radar speed indicator sign installed on North Street in the southbound lane in the area of Whitman Street responding to multiple resident complaints about excessive speed.
- Public Works has achieved an 89% Covid-19 full vaccination rate.
- In 2022, anticipate road delays on Route 2 east of Cole Avenue over the Green River and on route 7 north towards Vermont over the Hoosic River as Mass DOT has scheduled construction at both locations.

Highway Department

Craig Clough, Superintendent

Will the winter of 2020-2021 ever end? This winter proved to be a very busy and challenging one. Starting November 3rd of 2020 and ending on March 1st of 2021, the Highway crew was called into work to do snow removal 47 times for a total of 2,006 hours of snow removal. This is done, on average, with just 8 crew members. Williamstown received approximately 65 inches of snow and 6 inches of sleet and ice throughout this winter. One storm in particular was on December 17, 2020 which dropped 18 inches of snow. So, as you can see the Highway crew puts in a tremendous amount of time behind the wheel clearing the roads for all to travel safely around or through town. A big thanks to all the Highway crew for a great job once again this winter. We also welcome Michael Hayes to the Highway crew who joined us in February.

The Public Works garage lights were given a good cleaning and some new bulbs were installed to brighten up the workplace for the public works crew. Any light bulbs removed were properly recycled. We were able to do this in house and borrowed a manlift from the school district to keep the cost at a minimum. Thanks Jim O'Brien and Tim Sears for your generosity and help.

This mud season was long and challenging just like winter. The mud was especially deep on the gravel portion of Northwest Hill Road, so deep we had to close the road to through traffic until the road had time to dry out. A total of 1,066 tons of gravel and stone were used to shore up the gravel roads. An early spring allowed us to start grading the gravel roads after mud season ended. The Highway crew spent most of the spring cleaning the gravel road ditches before and after grading to create a better shedding effect for runoff. Along with spring comes the rain. The rain slowed the grading process with many rainy days.

Dozens of storm drain structures were repaired around town after a lengthy winter that caused extensive damage from ice conditions.

In early May, the road lines were painted in anticipation of increased traffic due to the state reopening.

Late spring into summer was very hot and humid with a tremendous amount of rain in the beginning of the summer season. The Highway crew spent most of the early summer clearing storm drains. It proved to be a very wet season. The Paving of a few roads had to be postponed due to this weather. Baxter Road, Buxton Hill Road, Hoxsey Street into Knolls Road and Longview Terrace were finally milled and paved in late July into August. The crew installed 57 new driveway aprons and filled in behind the new curbs with loam.

The month of July showered us with 14 inches of rain. This is a new record in the last 130 plus years of record keeping. The average for July is 4 inches. There was flooding of Hopper Road on July 9th where the Hopper Brook jumped its bank causing extensive damage to private property. Green River saw its largest volume of water ever

recorded in the history of record keeping on this same day. Even though we saw record amounts of rain this summer, we did not lose any of our gravel roads. All the hard work of keeping the gravel road ditches clean and routine maintenance of the culvert pipes and water runoffs seem to have paid off. There was very minor erosion of some of the ditches.

The month of August we experienced three tropical storms. Storms Elsa, Fred, and Henri, dropped a few more inches of rain. Once again all of the town roads held up well.

In September, the Highway crew fixed storm drainage issues all around town, especially in the Hopper where we added new drainage. The crew installed a new storm drain including 80 feet of 12-inch culvert to divert water across the street into an existing ditch. Further up the road we upgraded a 12-inch culvert to an 18-inch culvert (60 feet). A few old water run-offs were rehabbed in the area of an aging 40-inch culvert that had been over loaded twice this summer. The crew replaced a 12-inch failed culvert on Northwest Hill Road with a new 12 -Inch culvert pipe (40 Feet). In October, the Highway crew removed a failed 40-inch boiler shell culvert pipe on Brook Road and installed 35 feet of new 42-inch culvert pipe. All work was done in house and paved 1000 feet of Brook Road in the same week. A 36-inch boiler shell culvert pipe was repaired at the intersection of Cummings Avenue and Henderson Road as well.

A new resident sand shed was erected in the month of October that replaced an old metal fabricated shed. The new shed was built in house by Ken McAlpine with the help of the Highway Department crew. Thanks Ken! Highway crew repaired an 18-inch culvert in November that had been ripped apart after a section of North Hoosac Road slid downward 4 feet from road level. A 20-foot section of pipe was replaced and a headwall partially reconstructed. A 115-foot section of North Hoosac Road, adjacent to the failed 18-inch culvert, had slid causing the road to break off and taking the guardrails with it. The crew excavated 3 feet down and installed old sidewalk sections underground to try and shore up the edge of the road until a better solution can be engineered. After all excavating was done the crew paved the repaired section of road.

Once again winter is nipping at our heels, at this point the crew is prepared to clear the roads of snow and ice for the town residents, visitors, and anyone passing through.

Water/Sewer Dept.
David M Caron, Superintendent

The Sewer Department started the new year with the replacement of a 12" clay tile sewer line in the vicinity of Syndicate Road and North Street; the line had become overwhelmed with tree roots and also had several cracks and misaligned joints. The 12" Clay tile line was removed, along with the abandonment of a sewer manhole that was no longer needed, the line was replaced with SDR-35 of the same size and redirected into another manhole nearby, in doing so we created a more direct flow of sewage and also eliminating any future backups. The Sewer Dept. also continued with the rodding, jetting and televising of sewer lines in the Forrest Rd, Bulkley St, Thornliebank Rd, and also Baxter Rd. areas to ensure proper sewage flow and to also get a good look at the condition of the inner walls of the pipe.

Another item on the list for the Sewer Dept. was the rehab of a duplex sewer lift station at the Stay Berkshires Country Inn on Cold Spring Road, it had been long overdue for an upgrade and the department handled the job in house. Some of the upgrades consisted of stainless-steel piping and slide rails along with new valves; the replacement of one pump was also needed. Mt. Greylock High School also had a duplex sewer lift station that was in need of an upgrade, so we contracted the job to Williamson Electric out of Chelsea Massachusetts. The station underwent complete mechanical replacement, including stainless steel slide rails, float switches and all

wiring inside the concrete tank. Also replaced was the underground wiring to the control panel and a concrete cover for the tank.

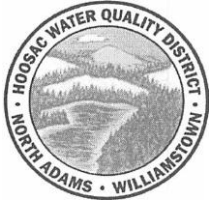
In the month of November, the department took possession of a new sewer rodder machine for a more efficient cleaning of the town's sewer system.

In the year 2021, The Water Dept. repaired six water main breaks along with ten water service repairs and also upgraded several water service curb-stop boxes. The replacement of a fire hydrant took place in front of 384 Main Street, it was determined to be more cost effective to replace rather than to spend money on parts for an already aging hydrant. In the coming year, the department has plans to replace six fire hydrants in various locations. This will be an ongoing process for years to come as several hydrants in town have been in place for many years. Although fully operational, the parts for these hydrants are becoming very hard to come by. As always, ongoing maintenance and repairs of the hydrants are top priority. Another project in the Water Department was the replacement of three out of date chlorine analyzers at the town water supply well sites. The analyzers were showing signs of age and inaccuracy, the decision was made to replace them as soon as possible. The analyzers measure what is known as (Free Chlorine) which is chlorine that is left over in the water after the disinfection of water has been completed. Clearing of water main Right-of- Ways is another part of our ongoing maintenance for the water distribution system, which includes clearing of trees and brush that have grown over the top of water mains that are off road. Leak detection is another form of maintenance involving our staff of the water department listening on every fire hydrant in town with tools designed for leak detection. Our goal is to find a water main leak on our terms and repair the leak as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns with regards to water and sewer, please call us before you call a contractor, by doing so it could save you from unnecessary expenses. Office hours are 7:00am-3:30pm Mon-Fri, after hours call the Williamstown Police at 413-458-5734.

HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT

Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager



Hoosac Water Quality District

667 Simonds Road

Williamstown, Mass. 01267

Tel. 413-458-8423 Fax 413-458-5016

hwqd@hoosacwaterqualitydistrict.com

Annual Report to Williamstown & North Adams Fiscal Year 2021

District Commission

Timothy Lescarbeau, Chairman – North Adams

Donald Clark, Vice Chairman – Williamstown

Michael Nuwallie, Secretary – North Adams

K. Elaine Neely, Member/ Treasurer – Williamstown

Chief Operator – Assistant Chief Operator

Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager

Mark J. DePonte, Assistant Chief Operator

Narrative

The Hoosac Water Quality District (District), which serves the Town of Williamstown and the City of North Adams, treated a total of 1,167,743,000 gallons of raw sewage during Fiscal Year 2021, which represents a decrease in flow of 211,672,000 gallons as compared to Fiscal Year 2020. In addition, the District treated 506,768 pounds of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and 685,251 pounds of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in FY 2021.

Some key highlights of FY 2021 were:

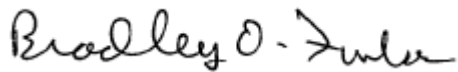
- The District, which includes six licensed wastewater operators, has not had any permit violations in over 20 years. Even with severe hydraulic overloads from rain and storm events, the District personnel works tirelessly to ensure that all requirements and parameters of the District's Consent Decree and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit are met. The District facility continues to produce effluent better than the standard set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP). Reports are submitted to EPA and MADEP monthly, which outline all actions being taken to ensure complete compliance.
- Fiscal year of 2021 was upsetting for the District's employment, with the loss of four licensed operators that retired or moved on to other companies. However, the District did replace all of the open positions with two of the four new hires obtaining MA Grade 4 Wastewater license in six months, which normally takes one year or longer.
- Also, the District completed two major capital projects in FY 2021. One with all District employees consisting of excavating an area 100 feet by 100 feet with depths of 10 feet to replace a leaking drain line in the District's Chlorine Contact Chamber. The other capital project was bid out to Green Mountain Pipeline Services of Bethel, VT. This project consisted of relining four, 20 inch siphon pipes 150 feet

long. Two pipes were under the Hoosic River and the other two pipes were under the Green River. These pipes are over 50 years old.

- Since 1983, the District's compost facility continues to produce Type I compost as defined by the MADEP. Approximately 4,434 yards of final compost was produced in FY21. Type 1 compost was made available to individual members of the local communities; however, the bulk of the compost was sold throughout the state of Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Vermont by a contracted vendor.
- Public interest in the District's facility continues to grow. The District's website, www.hoosacwaterqualitydistrict.com, gives an in depth description of the operations of the treatment facility. Tours are given regularly to local college students, local grade school students and the general public.

As always, we look forward to the challenges each year presents to us and remain committed to keeping our communities clean and safe.

Respectfully submitted for the District,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley O. Furlon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bradley O. Furlon
Chief Operator/District Manager

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

2020-2021 School Year

Dr. Jason P. McCandless - Superintendent

Jacob N. Schutz - Principal

Colin Shebar - Assistant Principal

Mount Greylock Regional School's commitment to innovation and to fostering all students' academic engagement and their social-emotional security continued throughout the 2020-2021 school year. The pandemic and the abrupt shift to remote and hybrid learning required a dramatic shift in teaching, and demanded that resources be reallocated as new programs for students were developed and professional development needs for teachers were expanded and re-envisioned.

Every day, all students received instructions (whether in-person or remote) during their scheduled class times. Each day was a unique experience of teaching and learning.

Families were able to choose two learning options:

OPTION 1- HYBRID LEARNING MODEL (In-Person and Remote)

- Grades (7 through 12) were divided into two groups; an A Group and a B Group which reduced individual classroom sizes to 8-15 students. Group A attended full days on Mondays and Tuesdays and worked remotely Wednesday-Friday. Group B attended full days on Thursdays and Fridays and worked remotely Monday-Wednesday.
- In-person days were devoted to hands-on experiences and instructional guidance for core classes and academic support. The three days of remote learning were synchronous for the five core classes with opportunities for computer-based learning, remote office hours, and support periods staffed by school personnel to check-in and assist students with completing assignments.
- The three days of remote learning incorporated synchronous and asynchronous instruction for Wellness and students' elective courses. While in school, students participated in Social Emotional Wellness programming at least once a week.

OPTION 2- REMOTE SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING MODEL

- Students were enrolled in classes following a typical five-day schedule starting with the morning bell and continuing to dismissal, doing everything the in-person students were doing. Remote students were assigned to classes that integrate in-person students with remote students. This enabled them to maintain relationships with classmates and make new friends. All students in grades 7-12, remote and in-person, received 5.5 hours of synchronous instruction a day delivered according to the school schedule.

- Synchronous learning was considered to be working at the same time as a scheduled class. Part of that time may be direct instruction (face to face). Other work students could choose to complete asynchronously (later) or synchronous (at the same time, but not necessarily while directly interfacing with a teacher). Asynchronous learning consisted of independent assignments or studies completed at another time than the scheduled course (possibly on-screen or off-screen).
- Direct instruction took place at a designated time (always synchronous) wherein both teacher and student had an opportunity for two-way dialogue -sharing a screen, chatting, speaking, etc. Although advocates of robust synchronous remote learning, careful attention was paid to how much time students were asked to be on their computers for school work and creative solutions developed for:
 - offline learning such as reading, creating, kinesthetic learning, hands-on projects
 - in-person connections among students, and teachers on our school campuses and/or throughout our communities outside
- Asynchronous instruction needed to dovetail with synchronous remote instruction; multi-sensory methods of engaging students could not simply rely on videos or other screen-based mechanisms for the teaching of lessons and skills will be considered. Time on screens was a very serious challenge for many students, especially given that screens were also the only way that many could continue to socialize with peers and family members.

Mount Greylock continued to comprehensively review the academic programs for math, science, social studies, and foreign language with a focus on aligning curriculum standards. To prepare students for capstone courses and post-secondary study. Mount Greylock continues to work on revising scope and sequence along with improving overall instruction. The district remained committed to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Accessibility by supporting initiatives that address curriculum and resource gaps, professional development, and co-curricular opportunities.

Often problem-solving at any given moment during the initial emergency remote learning in '19-'20, with time to deliberately plan for the 2020-2021 reopening, a Handbook Addendum was created to emphasize and identify ways in which students and families could expect support from the learning community.

In addition to providing support in key areas of professional development and technology, energy was expended to replace aging books, purchase new texts to bridge or develop thematic connections, and purchase critical lab supplies for hands-on experiments where applicable or meaningful virtual exploration when necessary. Staff utilized Canvas, Zoom, and PowerSchool platforms (among others) as a digital foundation to plan, deliver, and receive educational material. The Google Suite was employed as well as other learning tools (Flipgrid, Kahoot, Padlet, Quizlet, Membeam, et. al.) to facilitate learning.

The Mount Greylock senior student experience concluded with graduation. Despite the restrictions created by COVID-19, the class of 2021 was celebrated with a traditional ceremony held outside. Student and staff speakers addressed crowds of families seated on the lawn. After the formalities, graduates and their families processed to Waubeeka, escorted by police and fire departments from Hancock, Lanesborough, and Williamstown, for a class photoshoot and brief reception hosted by parents.

The entire Mount Greylock community remains grateful and inspired by the perseverance, and compassion of the greater communities in which we live.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Previous professional development efforts focused on student and staff access to technology positioned Mount Greylock to effectively transition to the hybrid and remote learning models. As the school-wide 1:1 Chromebook program and subscription to Google assets and the Canvas learning management system evolved into a primary means of instruction and assessment, faculty examined pedagogy.

Social-Emotional Learning and an effort to increase staff understanding of students' mental health needs also directed professional development offerings. The increased scope of Telehealth Services included providing remote clinical therapeutic support, developing treatment plans, providing individual therapy sessions/family sessions, collaborating with parents, SST, other necessary MG staff, and outside agencies or institutions to assist clients on a multi-tier level. In tandem with immediate and direct intervention, additional planning and collaboration focused on student social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum. Planning to incorporate direct instruction of SEL was a parallel effort augmented by selective therapeutic support. The overarching aim of this effort was to institutionalize and norm SEL for the entire population while triaging our most at-risk students.

Staff initiated a scholastic book study over the summer regarding diversity initiatives. This opportunity engaged staff with each other in conversation about supporting one another in a concerted effort to be antiracist educators and to make our building and classrooms welcoming and engaging for all. Mount Greylock's conscious effort to expand diversity and inclusivity has brought in speakers and workshops to address implicit bias and work on expanding the numbers of underrepresented stories and authorial voices present in the curriculum.

Curriculum-focused professional development continued to be provided to members of each department. In Mount Greylock's continuing effort to individualize instruction, accompanying curriculum work were reviews of instructional practices to best reach specific types of learners.

Various administrators and teachers continued work with Dr. Khyati Joshi, director of the Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice, in a series of intensive workshops for Northern Berkshire County educators sponsored by the Center for Learning in Action.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The Library Media Center is the heart of the school. During the past year, a significant number of outdated and non-circulating books were weeded, while the collection continued to expand to include even more fiction and nonfiction titles from diverse authors about diverse populations and experiences. Two senior teaching assistants worked with the librarian to manage the day-to-day tasks, to create inviting and educational bulletin boards and displays. The year saw a major reorganization of the fiction collection, which is now shelved by genre and has led to an easier book selection experience for students and a marked increase in circulation. Collaborations with teachers continue to grow, and the LMC is a popular site for both independent study and cooperative learning. The LMC hosted numerous clubs, including book clubs, writing clubs, and community service clubs, and is the home site for the Williams Center at Mt Greylock writing center and after-school tutoring programs.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS 2020 - 2021

Mount Greylock students continue to receive recognition for academic achievements.

Note - The COVID 19 pandemic had a profound impact on the 2020-21 school year. Data reported below may have been affected by the pandemic. Please keep this in mind when reviewing the data, and take particular care when comparing data over multiple school years.

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS 2.0):

Massachusetts implemented computer-based testing across all disciplines this year. 10th graders took MCAS exams in English and Math; 89% earned scores of meeting or exceeding expectations in English, and 75% earned equivalent scores in mathematics. 75% of 7th and 8th graders were meeting or exceeding expectations in English; 45% were achieving the same level in math. Science 8 exams scores revealed that 52% of 8th graders achieved or exceeded expectations.

Aptitude Tests: The average SAT score achieved by the 12th-grade class was 1273. The state average is 1184 and the national average is 1060.

Scholarship: In 2020-21, Mount Greylock had 17 AP Scholars with Distinction, four AP Scholars with Honor, and 24 AP Scholars. Three seniors earned honors as National Merit Commended students; one Semi-Finalist. 23 students – both juniors and seniors – were inducted into the National Honor Society after completing a rigorous application process and demonstrating their commitment to the pillars of the NHS: scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Four-Year Graduation Rates: In the annual Massachusetts report on the percentage of students graduating with four years of attendance from 2017-2021, Mount Greylock achieved a 95.5% adjusted graduation rate. Eighty-nine percent of the 87 graduates of the Class of 2021 planned to continue their education by enrolling in four- and two-year college programs. Others will pursue the military or join the workforce. The 2021 class headed to myriad colleges and universities including Bentley College, Berkshire Community College, Boston College, Bowdoin College, Bridgewater State University, Bryant University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Denison University, Eckerd College, Embry Riddle University, Framingham State University, Hobart & William Smith College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Middlebury College, New York University, Northfield Mt. Hermon, Princeton University, Providence College, Rochester Institute of Tech, Siena College, Skidmore College, Springfield College, Stanford University, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Massachusetts Boston, Union College, University of Colorado, University of Minnesota, University of New England, University of Toronto, Westfield State University, Williams College, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

At American Legion Boys and Girls State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, duties, and responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county, and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus, and recreational programs. For many years Mount Greylock student participants have built leadership skills, examined democratic values, and practiced civic engagement at this program. Williamstown American Legion Post 152 sponsored Mount Greylock representatives at the Stonehill College conference including Simon

Klompus, Jesse Tague, Anthony Welch, Jack Catelotti, Luca Hirsch, Christian Sullivan, Preston Maruk, Katherine Swann, and Alayna Schwarzer. The American Legion Post also supported Christiane Rech's participation in HOBY Youth Leadership in its mission to inspire and develop a global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation.

Mount Greylock continues to participate in Project 351, a state-sponsored program to unite 8th graders from across the Commonwealth to commit to service. Representing the various towns surrounding Mount Greylock in the 2020-2021 virtual Project 351 sessions were Charlotte Holubar (Lanesborough), Katherine Goss (Hancock), Mia Filiault (New Ashford), Noah Klompus (Williamstown). Mount Greylock continues to grow and expand our relationship with the Berkshire County's Anti-Defamation League. Student, staff, and Peer Leadership training occurs annually in both a reflective and enlightening fashion.

Committed parents continue to organize middle and high school students for PALS (Promoting Acceptance and Learning through Sports) to work with differently-abled middle and high school students. PALS pairs students with developmental disabilities from all three Mt. Greylock Regional Schools with a high school student to engage in sports.

EXTENSIVE ARTS PROGRAM

Mount Greylock offers a variety of visual arts and media courses for students to express themselves and explore ideas through drawing, painting, ceramics, stained glass, and photography. Student work is on display in units throughout the first floor and has been curated for shows at Norman Rockwell Museum, local libraries, and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. In addition to traditional mediums and materials, alternative materials, equipment, and tools were prepared, organized, and packaged for movement to students' home studios (albeit a kitchen table, living room rug, bed, or basement). Individual cell phones took the place of our professional Canon cameras in photography and video editing courses.

THRIVING MUSIC PROGRAM

The Mount Greylock Music Program culminated the 2020/2021 school year with an outdoor spring concert. This performance highlighted the hard work, determination, and talent of our student body.

We were also blessed with the participation of a sizable group of students in our new jazz band. We had weekly rehearsals where students learned the basics of improvisation and how to read in a new style.

"GreylockPlays", a short 25-minute concert at the start of school, remained an effective way for our ensembles to share their love of music with the wider school community.

Students *Oscar Low, Quinlan Repetto, Emily Dupuis, Beatrice Pedroni, Michael Faulkner, Caleb Low, and Grace Winters* represented Mount Greylock in the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Western District Music Festival. *Michael F., Emily D., and Grace W.* qualified to audition for the All-State Music Festival audition in January 2021. The students who participated in the MMEA Junior District Festival were: *Maire Scanlon, Killian Scanlon, Mai O'Connor, Simon Shin, Natasha Nugent, Mae Bergstresser, and Mateo Whalen-Loux.*

The music department also assisted with a "virtual musical" where students performed a monologue and song from their favorite show for a virtual audience.

A scheduling constriction as the result of the cohort model in the middle school prevented traditional scheduling of full band, orchestra, or chorus classes in the middle school. To address this concern all middle school students received a full year of electives, including those taught by our performing arts teachers. Individual lessons and small ensembles were integrated throughout the year as supplemental instruction.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Providing an opportunity for students to get involved in co-curricular programming remained a priority throughout the school year. While some adjustments occurred to ensure the safety of all involved, students still had multiple options to choose from both virtually and in-person to remain involved after school. These activities provided a needed reprieve from remote learning and the opportunity to socialize with peers.

There were sixteen different non-athletic co-curricular activities offered during the 2020-2021 school year, including performing arts opportunities, leadership opportunities, school publications, and other organizations designed to get Mount Greylock students involved. There were just over 100 students (21% of the school) who were able to take advantage of an afterschool program.

The school newspaper, The Echo, continued to maintain the school's online news at greylockecho.mgrhs.org and also produced three printed editions during the year. A group of students (mostly seniors) worked diligently all year to create the 100-page school yearbook with news stories, photographs, and events from the year.

Shakespeare and Company ran a small virtual program for seniors during the fall and 6 students from Mount Greylock participated. A young group of 18 non-seniors participated in a newly created Shakespeare Theater. Rehearsals were both in-person and virtual and the group created and edited a virtual performance to share in mid-November.

Jeff Welch, in his 22nd year as the Musical Director at Mount Greylock, worked with music teacher Jackie Vinette to create a virtual opportunity for students to rehearse and perform a musical piece of their choosing. Each student piece included a short monologue to set the scene and then a recorded student performance from home. The final edited performance can be viewed on the Mount Greylock Activities YouTube Channel.

The Greylock Multicultural Student Union met weekly to continue their work educating the students and staff about diversity issues in today's society and our local community. The group of students hosted the "Greylock ABC Speaker Series". Each of the five guests spoke about their trajectory from Mount Greylock as Greylock A Better Chance Scholars to college, career, and beyond. The presentations were made available to the wider community through Zoom and WilliNet.

Many of our student organizations made a big effort to think beyond themselves during a stressful time with community outreach. Students from the 'Students Organizing Change' group supported the local food pantry by creating handmade cards to accompany Thanksgiving Food Basketball and made multiple donations to families through the pantry. Students from our 'Youth Environmental Squad' organized two neighborhood cleanups encouraging students to safely collect uncollected trash in their neighborhood and

arrange for it to be picked up by a Mount Greylock student. A group of students representing both the MIAA Student Advisory Council and Mount Greylock Student Ambassadors started two community initiatives. The first was a Pen-Pal Program with students from both elementary schools and the second was the "Hat-for-a-Hat" Holiday Clothing Drive. Students made small hat ornaments and for each ornament sold, a hat was donated to a local child. The initiative went so well that the students were able to purchase gloves, snow pants, jackets, and other important items for children both through the elementary schools and the local shelter.

Other student opportunities include the new 'Debate Club' and 'Jazz Band', a thriving 'Register. Educate. Vote.' group, National Honor Society, Gender Sexuality Alliance, Student Council, and Writing Club.

STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS

Athletic programs were drastically affected by the pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year, however, Mount Greylock Administration worked to offer as many programs as possible to provide students the opportunity to safely interact in person with peers, exercise, compete and participate in activities that help improve student mental health and wellbeing. There were 307 (60% of the school population) students who were able to participate.

Fall 2020 and Fall II (2021)

In the fall, Mount Greylock offered competitive programs in non-contact sports including Cross Country Running (77 participants) and Golf (12 participants). Mount Greylock was able to compete against Wahconah, Monument Mountain, and Mount Everett. While the interscholastic competition was not possible for other traditional fall teams, we offered practice programs for football, soccer, unified basketball, and volleyball, and 135 students were actively involved.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association allowed leagues to adjust the season start and end dates and create a fourth season during the school year. That season was referred to as Fall II and it allowed Mount Greylock students to compete in football, soccer, unified basketball, and volleyball during the early spring to allow students who enjoy the traditional fall sports the opportunity to compete for their school. There were 130 Mount Greylock students able to take advantage of that opportunity. The Berkshire County Athletic Directors Association created an end-of-season tournament for these programs and Mount Greylock performed very well. The Boys Varsity Soccer Team earned a Berkshire County Championship Title, while the girls' team was a Berkshire County Finalist. The Volleyball Team had a great season and finished as Berkshire County Semi-Finalists.

Winter 2020-2021

During the winter of the 2020-2021 school year, Mount Greylock offered Basketball (43 Participants) and Nordic Skiing (64 Participants). Though no state or local tournaments were possible, these teams were able to compete against local schools in February and March.

Spring 2021

The 2021 spring season began a few weeks later than usual to allow for the Fall II Season but concluded with the traditional MIAA Tournament and provided 200 Mount Greylock students the opportunity to become involved in Baseball, Lacrosse, Softball, Tennis, or Track. Regular season contests were against local schools only. The Girls Tennis Team earned a Western Massachusetts Championship Title and were MIAA State Semi-Finalists. The Softball Team was a Western Massachusetts Finalist and the Girls Lacrosse team was a Central/Western Massachusetts Finalist. Baseball finished the season as Western

Massachusetts Quarterfinalists. The Girls Track Team earned 2nd Place in the Division II Central/West Championship and the Boys Track Team finished 15th.

Leadership and Athletic Honors

The unusual year created unusual athletic seasons. As many local schools were not able to safely offer athletic programs, the traditional award presentations and ceremonies did not occur. Some Berkshire County Coaches still selected students to be recognized as "All-League" or "Most Valuable" within their sport in Berkshire County or Western Mass, but this was not consistently done for each program. There were still some opportunities for Mount Greylock students to shine and represent their school.

The Berkshire County Athletic Directors hosted the tenth annual Berkshire County Leadership Summit on March 1st, 2021. Mount Greylock attendees included Bryn Angelini, Zoe Armet, Annabel Art, Seamus Barnes, Jack Catelotti, Takiera Darrow, Ezra Holzapfel, Lucy Igoe, Juliann Lawson, Patrick McConnell, and Molly Sullivan. In addition, Delaney Babcock, Hannah Gilooly, Emma Sandstrom, Mackenzie Sheehy, Kate Swann, and Mia VanDeurzen led individual breakout sessions at the event.

Mackenzie Sheehy, John Skavlem, and Mia VanDeurzen represented the school as MIAA Ambassadors during the 2020-2021 school year. Delaney Babcock was selected through an application process to represent the school and state as a member of the MIAA Student Advisory Council. Delaney Babcock and Mia VanDeurzen were also selected as the District 1 recipients of the MASADA Mickey Sullivan Award for their Hat-for-a-Hat Winter Clothing Initiative. The award recognizes students who have made a meaningful and lasting contribution to high school athletics.

SUPPORTIVE PARENTS AND A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY

Parents and community volunteers continue to support the many activities and programs offered at Mount Greylock. The industrious and passionate athletic booster clubs and co-curricular organizations, including Friends of the Arts and the MGPTO, provided year-round support through fundraising, providing transportation, and onsite support. A dynamic School Council worked actively with school administrators to assess and plan for the needs of all students.

Community organizations and business partners opened their doors to allow Mount Greylock students to job shadow and complete internships and school-to-work programs.

Williams College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and Berkshire Community College provided opportunities for Mount Greylock students to enroll in credit-bearing courses.

Despite the restrictions of the pandemic, the partnership between the Williams Center at Mount Greylock (WC@MG) and the school continues to thrive. It supports numerous programs and initiatives, which develop and grow each year. Mount Greylock's relationship with the Williams Center impacts programs in writing, research, math, science field trips, the performing arts, and Model United Nations. Critical help comes from Williams students who provide after-school academic support and mentoring programs.

Mount Greylock students benefited from working with guest artists visiting Williams who also made a trip to the regional school or invited students to collaborate and learn with them at the '62 Center for Theatre and Dance. Faculty and staff also offered their expertise as guest speakers for a variety of classes and GreylockTalks, the monthly speaker series modeled on TEDTalks.

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT and STAFFING
2020-2021**

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Grade 7	90	94	123	92	77
Grade 8	103	90	90	131	87
Grade 9	89	94	79	85	116
Grade 10	100	82	88	77	89
Grade 11	84	93	84	84	73
Grade 12	93	82	87	84	87
SP	3	5	5	4	3
TOTAL:	562	540	556	557	532

Data reflects enrollments as counted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, where district and school profiles report students physically enrolled in a school.

EDUCATIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFFING (Full-Time Equivalents)

	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Administrators	4.92	4.97	3	2.98	3
Instructional Staff	44.57	45.49	45.67	46.07	47.26
Instructional Support Staff	3.51	3.54	3.54	3.86	3.83
Paraprofessionals	18	18	17	15	21
Medical/Health Services	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL:	72	73	70.21	68.91	76.09

Data reflects FTE by Job Classification as reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

LEARNING MORE

Community members are invited to stay current with Mount Greylock events and accomplishments by visiting the revised and expanding Mount Greylock website at www.mgrhs.org or following Instagram accounts @MGMouties and @MGActivities and Twitter accounts, @MGMouties, and @AthleticsMG.

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

James Brosnan, Superintendent

The Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, McCann Technical School, students, faculty and staff continued their record of noteworthy accomplishments in fiscal year 2021 and this report highlights some of these accomplishments.

Our mission is to graduate technically skilled, academically prepared, and socially responsible individuals ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Our mission and educational philosophy are implemented by adhering to the following core values:

Respect for self, others, and the learning environment promotes a positive learning experience for all students.

Effort is demonstrated through an applied work ethic that includes punctuality, improvement, and a determination to succeed.

Accountability develops personal responsibility for both behavior and learning.

Communication facilitates collaboration, promotes self-advocacy, and develops positive relationships.

Honor requires students to act with integrity, honesty, positivity, and empathy for others.

McCann continues to offer high quality vocational and academic education. The faculty and staff pride itself on meeting the needs of all of our learners as the best practices in teaching and education are constantly being developed and refined. Our vocational programs are updated annually to the latest industry-recognized techniques and equipment. Academic programs consistently implement updated and relevant material for their disciplines. The support from our member towns is integral in creating this culture of learning which is reflected in our students' accomplishments.

The accomplishments of our students reflect the McCann culture of learning:

The class of 2021 was the eighteenth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination as designated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Competency determination for the class of 2021 was modified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and certified through an attestation of a four-year course-completion requirement. 110 graduates of the class of 2021 saw 48% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 45% enter the workforce, and 6% proudly enter into military service. The graduation class was able to have an in-person commencement ceremony on its regularly scheduled day, June 6, 2021.

GRADE 10 – ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS			
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2019	2020	2021
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	2%	NA	9%
PASSING	96%	NA	82%
NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS	2%	NA	9%

GRADE 10 – MATHEMATICS			
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2019	2020	2021
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	0%	NA	2%
PASSING	94%	NA	83%
NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS	6%	NA	15%

GRADE 10 – SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG					
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ADVANCED	26.1%	13.7%	16.0%	NA	NA
PROFICIENT	51.3%	53.3%	56.0%	NA	NA
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	20.1%	30.6%	25.0%	NA	NA
FAILING	1.7%	2.4%	3.0%	NA	NA

Fall and winter sports were canceled in 2020-2021 as a result of the pandemic. Our students were able to resume athletic activities in the spring with boys and girls lacrosse, softball, and baseball. The baseball team advanced to post-season play but all the teams benefited from being back out on the field and engaged in extracurricular activities. Our student athletes continue to represent the school in a positive fashion.

Our continuous facility improvement program allowed us to remove asbestos floor tile and renovate two bathrooms and related storage areas. We completed the painting and reequipping of the automotive shop, expanded the culinary classroom area, renovated the information technology and computer assisted design and advanced manufacturing shops installing new computers in all these areas capable of using advanced software. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the installation of over 30 energy recovery ventilator (ERV) systems in all classroom, laboratory, and related occupied areas. We also installed ERV's and made other ventilation upgrades in the automotive, advanced manufacturing, metal fabrication, carpentry, and business technology shops. We completed the installation of a new CAT 6 internet cable throughout the building and completed the wiring of our additional security system cameras. We completed construction of a new concrete front entryway, installed new safety fences on the athletic fields, and installed lighting on our football field for use during the 2022 football season. We installed a new oven and grill in our culinary arts program and upgraded furnishings in the Tea Room.

The integration of new educational technology continues to be our priority. We used our Perkins Grant to continue our upgrade of software in all of our technical areas. We purchased new desktop and laptop computers with expanded storage and computing capacity to enable our students and staff to accommodate all of the software upgrades. We became a 1:1 Chromebook school purchasing the necessary systems to issue to every student. The switch to remote education during the height of the pandemic enabled us to install a variety of educational software systems which complemented and

enhanced our offerings. We also received a Skills Capital grant of \$188,800.00 enabling us to add two CNC lathes with Y-Axis capability for our advanced manufacturing program.

McCann continued its ongoing participation in SkillsUSA, a national organization of more than 300,000 members working to ensure America has a skilled workforce. McCann is a 100% member of SkillsUSA which has provided the opportunity for our students to earn scholarships, tools for their trade, opportunities for employment and awards in recognition of their accomplishments. The 2021 SkillsUSA district competition was held virtually at McCann in accordance with the school's policies and the SkillsUSA guidance. McCann students earned Twelve gold medals in 3-D visualization and animation, additive manufacturing, architectural drafting, carpentry, industrial motor control, sheet metal, technical computer applications, technical drafting and web design. Fourteen silver medals were awarded in 3-D visualization and animation, additive manufacturing, architectural drafting, carpentry, electrical construction wiring, restaurant service, sheet metal, technical computer applications, technical drafting, web design and welding. Five bronze medals were also earned in 3-D visualization and animation, architectural drafting, technical computer applications and technical drafting. At the 2021 SkillsUSA state competition McCann students earned four gold medals in 3-D visualization and animation, additive manufacturing and architectural drafting. Three silver medals were awarded in 3-D visualization and animation, architectural drafting and sheet metal. Seven bronze medals were earned in 3-D visualization and animation, additive manufacturing, carpentry, industrial motor control and technical drafting. We are incredibly proud of our competitors!

Business Professionals of America (BPA) is the leading career and technical student organization for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. The organization's activities complement classroom instruction by giving students practical experience through application of the skills learned at school. BPA is contributing to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. At the virtual 2021 BPA State Leadership Conference (SLC), McCann students received a total of nine awards in finance, business administration, management information systems, digital communication and design, and management, marketing and communications. McCann BPA members earned one 1st place, two 2nd place, three 3rd place, one 4th place, and two 5th place awards at the SLC in March. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the National Leadership Conference scheduled in Orlando, Florida was canceled, but held virtual.

McCann students continued to excel in receiving industry-recognized credentials through their vocational programs. Six of our culinary arts seniors received their American Culinary Federation credentials and a culinary arts sophomore won the silver medal at SkillsUSA district competitions. The vast majority of the business technology students earned their certifications in a number of Microsoft Office programs including Access Expert, Excel Associate, and Word. Information technology students obtained their cyber-security certifications and all of our sophomores' school-wide earned their OSHA-10 certifications. Industry Recognized credentials such as these are prevalent in all of our vocational programming and offer our students a competitive advantage when entering the workforce.

The success of our student body continues to be measured by our 100% competency determination, high career placement, high college matriculation rate and technical expertise in national skills competitions.

The district continues to operate on sound financial management principles and incorporates technology in this process to ensure maximum benefit for all of our programming. At the end of the fiscal year, we

returned \$165,000.00 of unused transportation monies to our communities. The district continues to search out grants to support our educational funding to improve instructional services and vocational equipment.

Our Massachusetts Board of State Examiners of Electricians 8 module (600 hour) journeyman electrical program continues to expand with over 78 electricians completing modules in 2019-2020 while 17 completed the master electrician program.

FY21 Budgeted Revenues		Budget	Actual
City and Town Assessments			
Municipal Minimum		\$3,203,871.00	\$3,172,869.00
Capital		\$59,163.00	\$59,163.00
Transportation		\$136,000.00	\$136,000.00
Municipal Assessment		\$440,761.00	\$471,763.00
Ch. 71 Transportation		\$310,000.00	\$340,297.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid		\$5,161,888.00	\$5,071,520.00
Tuition		\$718,480.00	\$809,261.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		\$8,439.00	\$8,026.00
Total Revenue Received		\$10,038,602.00	\$10,068,899.00
Member City and Town Transportation Refunds			(\$30,297.00)
		\$10,038,602.00	\$10,038,602.00
Source	Grant	Amount	
(Federal Entitlement)			
Federal	Sped IDEA	\$131,161.00	
Federal	Title I	\$123,298.00	
Federal	Title II A	\$17,986.00	
Federal	Title IV	\$10,000.00	
Federal	Perkins	\$70,234.00	
Federal	Postsecondary Perkins	\$3,138.00	
Federal	CvRF	\$109,125.00	
Federal	ESSER/Cares	\$84,099.00	
Federal	SPED Improvement	\$7,784.00	
(Federal Grants Other)			
REAP		\$40,241.00	
FEMA		\$5,259.91	
Summer Vacation Learning		\$6,012.00	
(State Grants)			
State Coronavirus Prevention		\$26,825.00	
Workforce Skills Capital Equipment		\$188,800.00	
MassHire Berkshire: Connecting Activities		\$6,000.00	
MassHire Berkshire: Advanced Manufacturing		\$20,000.00	
MassHire Berkshire: Welding		\$20,000.00	
Safer School and Communities		\$19,956.00	
(Local Grants)			
Municipal CARES Act		\$61,417.29	
(Private)			
Private	Olmsted	\$5,000.00	
Private	BHG Wellness	\$2,000.00	
Private	Adams Community Bank for Graduation	\$1,000.00	
Private	Superintendent's Association Teacher PD	\$4,000.00	
Private	Gene Haas Foundation (AMT)	\$10,000.00	
TOTAL GRANTS		\$973,336.20	

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

www.nbswmd.com

Williamstown is one of thirteen towns that comprise the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District (NBSWMD). The NBSWMD was established in 1988 through legislation passed by the Massachusetts General Court. By forming the solid waste district, the small municipalities in Northern Berkshire County have been able to pool resources and obtain professional waste management services to conduct recycling and outreach education programs, hazardous and special recycling collections. The district's vision is to seek regional solutions to attain sustainability and environmental objectives through solid waste and recycling programs.

The 13 member towns that comprise NBSWMD include Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Windsor, and Williamstown. Each town appoints a representative to serve on the NBSWMD Board.

Board Officers for 2021 were: Joseph Szczepaniak Jr., Chair (Lanesborough); Edward Driscoll, Vice Chair (Adams); and Terry Haig, Treasurer.

In 2021, NBSWMD services included:

- Working with a third-party Inspector from MassDEP to conduct annual transfer station compliance inspections pursuant to 310 CMR 19.018, all of which have been highly rated.
- Serving as Bid Administrator for hauling and processing of waste, recyclables with Casella Waste Systems Inc.
- Working with regional entities to challenge increased prevailing wage rates for hauling.
- Coordinating special collections that are open to all 13 member towns, including annual Bulky and Electronics recycling events, Household Hazardous Waste Collection, and a Community Paper Shredding event.
- Conducting outreach on Food waste reduction programs including offering 80-gallon home composting units (Earth Machine) subsidized through Sustainable Materials recovery programs grant awards and providing guidance to the Williamstown Composting Pilot Program.
- Management of transfer station recyclables including collection, hauling, and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste, textiles, scrap metal, books, and swap shops (household good in Hinsdale, Savoy, and Windsor).
- Introduction of new programing in 2021: Town of Williamstown, Food waste reduction through a six-month composting Pilot program; and Town of Adams and New Ashford textile recycling bins with Apparel Impact.
- Outreach to local youth groups introducing MassDEP "Green Team" educational program.
- Submittal of member-town MassDEP annual recycling and solid waste surveys, grants through Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) and all reporting.

The district in 2021 held two comprehensive household hazardous waste collections allowing residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, oil-based paints, oil, pesticides, and other products. A total of 270 households participated in the collections.

Also, the district held 3 bulky waste and electronics collections in 2021. More than 250 households participated in these collections. Over 15,896 pounds of electronics and 8 tons of scrap metals were recycled. A community paper shredding day was held in May 2021 to offer residents a safe way to recycle secure documents, and over 48 totes containing a total of 2450 pounds of paper were shredded by Pro-shred. The district continues to offer all the member towns' residents subsidized home composting units for \$25, allowing food waste, leaves, and brush to be composted at home.

The day -to-day program operations of the NBSWMD are managed by Program Coordinator, Linda Cernik. Board meetings are held monthly. Due to COVID many of the meetings were held remotely using the Zoom platform, posted with each member town.

The NBSWMD has an annual operations assessment that is approved by the district's Board of Commissioners, which is based on the current census 2010. The combined assessments for all thirteen towns were \$90,707.83. The Assessments are for operating costs, special collections, such as Household Hazardous waste collection contracted with Clean Harbors Environmental, Community paper shredding events, subsidized home composting units, and six universal waste collections sites with Next Level Recycling.

In 2021, all NBSWMD member-towns were eligible for and received grants under the DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). In total, the NBSWMD Towns received \$40,500 in grant funds to be used to further enhance recycling programming. The town of Williamstown was granted \$4,900 due to the town's successful waste management and recycling infrastructure.

During the past year, the NBSWMD member-towns collectively diverted 825 tons of recyclable materials to the Casella Waste Systems INC, Vermont Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). The Town of Williamstown recycled 160.43 tons paper and 106.65 tons of co-mingled containers. A total of 58.39 tons of scrap metal was recycled, generating \$3359.90 in revenue for the town. 33,281 pounds of textiles were diverted by residents dropping off textiles in Apparel Impact bins placed at the transfer station, Express Mart, and Moonlight Diner.

Williamstown also embarked on a six-month food waste composting pilot program beginning November 2021 and created a Williamstown Composts! website for residents to sign up for one of three options: curbside pick-up of food waste in designated neighborhoods; drop-off at a shed located at the transfer station using an EcoCaddy compost bin to transport food waste; and backyard composting with an Earth Machine. The pilot program will be evaluated to determine the feasibility of expanding community wide.

Thanks go out to the Town's DPW, Board of Health, transfer station attendants, all the district's contracted haulers and processors, and all the district volunteers and the residents of all the member towns. Your continued support in waste reduction, composting and recycling keeps our communities a beautiful place to call home.

Linda Cernik, NBSWMD Program Coordinator
Nancy Nylen, Board Commissioner



PLANNING BOARD

Chris Winters, Chair

The Planning Board is an elected Board, responsible for overseeing the long-term land use patterns of Williamstown through the Zoning Bylaw, The Subdivision Control Law, and Master Planning process. Following the May 2021 Town Election the Board is comprised of five members: Stephanie Boyd, Dante Birch, Peter Beck, Roger Lawrence, and Chris Winters. Stephanie Boyd finished her term as chair in May 2021 and Chris Winters was elected as chair for the remainder of the year. Dante Birch Represents the Planning Board at the Community Preservation Committee and Roger Lawrence at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

The Planning Board focused on fixing the proposed cannabis bylaw that did not make it through 2020's Town Meeting. We worked diligently meeting with residents, farmers, industry specialists, and others to craft what the board felt strongly was a compromise proposal that protected the interests of the Town and farmers alike. This proposal successfully passed at Town Meeting in May 2021. A major initiative was begun immediately after the Town Meeting. The Board appointed Peter Beck and Stephanie Boyd as the Board's representatives to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. They will be co-chairing this work until 2023. This Steering Committee, selected and appointed by the Planning Board crafted an RFP for consulting services and in November selected Resilience Planning and Design to assist us. This will be the first major town wide plan since 2002 and we're very excited to see the results of the Steering Committee's work. The later part of the year was focused on a deep dive into issues surrounding exclusionary zoning practices in our town's bylaw. The Board was able to do some outreach work with residents on these issues at the National Night Out event at the Spruces in August. We also had a group of Williams students study the recent trend in large lot development in town. We concluded the year focusing on proposals to reduce the exclusionary nature of our bylaw and promote housing supply in Williamstown. This work continues into 2022.

Finally, we want to take this opportunity to remind all our friends and neighbors that throughout 2022 the Planning Board will be meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM to discuss these and other important issues. We encourage the public to attend and discuss the present and future land use patterns of Williamstown, and how we grow, protect, and manage the fabric of our community.

WILLIAMSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Interim Police Chief Michael Ziemba

The Police Chief oversees the Police Department and Dispatch as well as the School Crossing Guards. All of these employees are hard-working, dedicated professionals. Williamstown is very fortunate to have these professionals in these incredibly trying times not only locally but also across the country. Every aspect of the policing profession changes what seems like almost daily. The men and women of these respective departments endure these changes and embrace them with open arms, welcoming new techniques in policing and resisting complacency. I consider this agency to be part of my family and I care about and respect each and every one of them for collectively helping to make this town safe. In the year 2022, your Police Department looks forward to continuing to listen to community input, having transparency and finding new ways to address the concerns of the community we serve. We look forward to the new year as we continue to proceed on the path to accreditation by updating policies and procedures and utilizing a new informative website and social media site while we strive for more levels of transparency and accountability. All this while continuing to engage with the community we serve.



One of the duties of the Police Chief is to be the team leader from within the agency, but also the face of the department externally to the public. No function is too big or small. In a town such as Williamstown, the Chief may be in the Office one day working on administrative tasks, but answering patrol calls the next or answering the phone in Dispatch.

We still offer our Training/EOPS Room (during non-Covid times) as a community meeting space should any group desire to take advantage of this.

Follow us on Facebook as "Williamstown Police Department, Massachusetts" or at www.williamstownmapolice.com

Pandemic Issues: In response to the global coronavirus pandemic the Police Department was forced to limit or suspend many services while learning to adapt with the addition of PPE (personal protective equipment). While we continued to maintain normalcy as far as responding to immediate calls for service, any calls for service that could be handled by phone or email were done just that way thus limiting human contact. In an effort to keep our employees and the public safe, we limited access to interior sections of the station, keeping only the main entrance and lobby off of Dispatch open to the public. These precautions are raised/relaxed with the current trends of the pandemic.

We had to tailor or suspend at times the fingerprinting process and issuing of LTC's to limit the amount of close human contact between individuals.

We also pulled back on minor or less important traffic and parking enforcement issues during the pandemic so as to limit hand to hand exchange of documents during these times. While all complaints were still addressed and serious issues handled immediately, less urgent issues were not pressed.

When responding to calls for service, we encouraged people to meet us outside in the open air instead of going into their homes. All of these above listed changes may have gone unnoticed by some, but our yearly statistics show that changes were made as we've had a significant drop in our yearly call volume.

All of these extra safety measures have helped us to this point although, we too have had our members exposed to the virus several times thus far.

Administration / Personnel:

Lieutenant (currently Acting Chief) Michael Ziemba

Sergeant: Paul Thompson

Officers: Kevin Garner, Tania Hernandez, Craig Eichhammer, John McConnell, Shuan William, Scott Skorupski, Brad Sacco & Anthony Duprat

Dispatchers / Reserve Officers: Laurie Tuper (Dispatch), David Jennings (Reserve), Calvin Dziedziak (Reserve), Barb Brucato (Dispatch), Christy Lemoine (Dispatch), Haley Sigsbury (Dispatch), Ryan Dubie (Part Time Dispatch), John Daub (Part Time Dispatch)

Custodian: Jim Blair

Crossing Guards: Bill Cote, Rosella Cote, Linda Nichols, Scott Parks (Part-time)



Dispatch:

Our Police Department is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Aside from Police dispatches and handling walk-in's, we also dispatch for Williamstown Fire and Northern Berkshire EMS, as well as serving as the after-hours point of contact for both the Department of Public Works and the State Department of Transportation.

Calls for service are generated through Dispatch in a variety of ways. They can be personnel initiated via the radio or the cruiser's Mobile Data Terminal (MDT), a person can simply walk-into the station requesting assistance, or they may come in through phone calls to the business, emergency or 911 phone lines. In 2021, the Department received/returned 15,286 calls on the business lines and another 4,585 calls on the emergency or 911 lines.

There were 10,051 calls for service requiring some sort of action and are listed below by Call-Type category and are then broken down by shift:

<u>CALLS BY CATEGORY</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
911 ABANDONED CALLS	38	105	88
911 TEST CALLS	81	75	78
911 WRONG NUMBER CALLS	121	129	241
911 HANG UP CALL	56	102	89

911 SILENT CALLS	13	52	113
911 OVERFLOW – NORTH ADAMS	8	9	36
ABANDONED MV	2	3	5
AIRCRAFT INCIDENT	2	0	0
ALARM – BURGLAR	174	150	173
ALARM – OTHER	10	22	9
AMBULANCE CALL – WILLIAMSTOWN	1281	985	1099
AMBULANCE CALL – HANCOCK	73	43	38
AMBULANCE CALL – MUTUAL AID	13	4	8
AMBULANCE CALLS – NEW ASHFORD	15	11	10
AMBULANCE CALL - NORTH ADAMS	12	29	8
AMBULANCE CALLS – POWNAL	5	10	4
AMBULANCE TRANSFERS	736	310	237
ANIMAL BITE	16	16	19
ANIMAL CONTROL	327	266	258
ALARM PERMITS ISSUED	3	3	3
ALARM PERMIT RENEWALS	116	108	123
ASSAULT	18	8	17

ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – DPW	60	48	47
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – FIRE	82	74	61
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – MGRSD	22	7	5
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	26	164	225
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – RMV	15	13	2
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – POLICE	98	114	99
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – UTILITY	49	46	57
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – WCSS	27	11	12
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – REPO	9	3	4
BREAKING & ENTRY	26	4	3
B.O.I.O.	104	74	110
BUILDING CHECK	4147	3638	2454
BURGLARY	2	0	1
DISTURBANCE	120	129	137
DISABLED MV	124	77	87
DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	23	16	30
ESCORT / TRANSPORT	13	4	5
FINGERPRINTING	35	28	30

FIRE DISPATCH – WILLIAMSTOWN	275	220	296
FIRE DISPATCH – MUTUAL AID	6	4	8
FORGERY	0	0	0
FIREARMS OFFENSE	1	0	1
FOREST WARDEN DISPATCH	29	31	16
ILLEGAL DUMPING	4	10	9
IMMIGRATION DETAINER REQUESTS	0	0	0
JUNK MOTOR VEHICLE	1	5	0
JUVENILE OFFENSES	2	0	3
K-9 REQUEST – WILLIAMSTOWN	3	3	6
K-9 REQUESTS – OTHER AGENCY	4	5	7
LARCENY	84	50	52
LICENSE TO CARRY	85	83	50
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	23	1	1
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	179	100	102
MISSING PERSON	7	11	14
MOTOR VEHICLE LOCKOUT	120	84	87
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	197	150	150

MOTOR VEHICLE STOP	2361	748	774
NARCOTICS INVEST	1	1	2
NOISE COMPLAINT	50	35	28
PARKING COMPLAINT	39	17	28
PERSONNEL COMPLAINT	2	1	7
PROPERTY DAMAGE	18	9	17
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	10	4	4
PARKING CHECK	1719	632	347
POWER OUTAGE	11	6	4
PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST	156	161	260
FOUND / LOST PROPERTY	110	78	66
PUBLIC SERVICE	86	74	193
PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT	34	3	36
RECOVERED STOLEN MV	0	0	0
ROAD CONDITIONS	187	134	102
ROBBERY	0	0	0
SERVE RESTRAINING ORDER	10	6	19
SEXUAL OFFENSES	25	13	13

SUDDEN DEATH	6	5	3
SECTION 12	17	19	15
SHOPLIFTING	4	1	8
SUSPICIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE	228	158	103
AUTO THEFT	1	1	1
SOLICITING	10	4	38
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	11	3	8
SPEED TRAILER ASSIGNMENT	12	6	2
SYSTEM TROUBLE	23	7	9
SERVE SUMMONS	80	23	13
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	270	322	265
THREATS / HARASSMENT	38	36	50
TRAFFIC CONTROL	860	335	528
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	253	190	194
TRESPASS	26	14	23
UNWANTED GUEST	20	13	27
VANDALISM	22	21	24
VIOLATION RESTRAINING ORDER	4	5	9

SERVE WARRANT	4	4	8
WELL-BEING CHECK	141	129	158
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE:	15973	10921	10213

2021 CALLS FOR SERVICE BY SHIFT:

<u>SHIFT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CALLS</u>
Days / 7am to 3pm	6165
Evenings / 3pm to 11pm	2729
Nights / 11pm to 7am	1319
Total Calls for Service	10213

Criminal Activity:

The Police Department applied for seventy-one (71) criminal charges against sixty-six (66) adults, and ten (10) criminal charges against five (5) juveniles in 2021. An additional five (5) adults were placed into Protective Custody. The following is a breakdown of offense types based upon the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS):

<u>OFFENSES BY NIBRS CODE:</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
FORCIBLE RAPE / SODOMY	4	0	2
FORCIBLE FONDLING	0	0	3
ROBBERY	0	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	5	3	1
SIMPLE ASSAULT	15	7	11
INTIMIDATION	3	3	4

ARSON	0	0	0
BREAKING & ENTERING / BURGLARY	7	12	2
SHOPLIFTING	4	1	10
THEFT FROM A BUILDING	4	5	8
THEFT FROM A MV	11	0	1
ALL OTHER LARCENIES	60	24	44
MV THEFT	2	3	3
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	0	0	0
LARCENY BY FALSE PRETENSE	8	3	0
CREDIT CARD THEFT	1	0	1
IMPERSONATION	0	3	0
HACKING/COMPUTER INVASION	0	0	0
EMBEZZLEMENT	0	0	0
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	2	1	0
PROPERTY DESTRUCTION / VANDALISM	30	26	18
NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	3	5	2
INCEST	0	0	0
STATUTORY RAPE	0	1	0

PORNOGRAPHY / OBSCENE MATERIAL	0	0	7
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	1	1	2
BAD CHECKS	1	1	0
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	0	1	3
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	7	9	6
DRUNKENNESS	15	2	5
FAMILY OFFENSES (NON-VIOLENT)	0	0	0
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	18	2	1
TRESPASS	5	0	2
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	63	31	56
TRAFFIC OFFENSES / TOWN BYLAWS	163	86	80
TOTAL	432	229	272

Traffic Enforcement:

Traffic enforcement is a portion of the Police Department's duties. The town has approximately eighty-six (86) miles of public roadways, with the major routes being State Routes 2, 7, and 43. Specific traffic complaints are received regularly at the Police Department. As cell phone technologies advance with improved reception, more motorists are calling to report the improper operation of other motorists. When possible, patrols are directed to these areas in an attempt to locate the specific motor vehicle. A second type of complaint commonly received is when a resident or group of residents in a specific neighborhood report speeding vehicles in a specific section of town. To assist in strategizing enforcement in these specific areas, the Police Department deploys a speed monitoring trailer to record the number of vehicles, speed, direction and time of day to allow for a more specific enforcement action. These trailers also serve as a deterrent as well by displaying both the posted road speed and the vehicle's speed, and then flashing red when the posted speed is exceeded. In addition to the mobile trailers, we also have two (2) permanent speed monitoring signs installed on Route 43 (Water Street and Green River Road); two (2) signs on School Street and two (2) signs on North Hoosac Road.

In 2021, the Police Department responded to one hundred and twenty (120) motor vehicle crashes.

<u>CRASH ACTIVITY SUMMARY</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
FATAL MV CRASHES	1	1	1
CRASHES INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS / CYCLISTS	7	6	1
TOTAL MV CRASHES:	197	150	120

<u>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
CRIMINAL MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	185	104	95
CIVIL MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	297	85	38
WARNING MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	2348	754	844
TOTALS VIOLATIONS:	2830	944	977
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS:	2361	748	774

<u>PARKING ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
HANDICAP ZONE	5	1	0
PROHIBITED AREA	107	15	6
DOUBLE PARKING	4	0	0
ALL NIGHT PARKING	388	246	340
WITHIN 10' OF FIRE HYDRANT	5	1	0

ACROSS PRIVATE DRIVE / ROAD	1	2	0
WITHIN 20' OF INTERSECTION	10	0	1
UPON CROSSWALK / SIDEWALK	2	1	1
WRONG DIRECTION OR MORE THAN 12" FROM CURB	16	10	4
SNOW & ICE REMOVAL	4	1	0
UPON BRIDGE OR APPROACH	1	0	0
OVERTIME PARKING	1125	189	0
TOTAL PARKING TICKETS:	1668	466	352

<u>NON-MOTOR VEHICLE CITATIONS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
CIVIL POSSESSION OF ONE (1) OUNCE OR LESS OF MARIJUANA	4	1	0
UNLICENSED DOG	1	0	0
DOG RUNNING AT LARGE	15	5	0

Training:

Training is a very important element for effective policing. Laws are constantly being created or updated, and technology is rapidly advancing in the world of law enforcement. There is a delicate balance between staying current, and sometimes even ahead of these changes, while working within the strict confines of a budget. The Police Department recognizes the importance of training, and every year all officers receive a minimum of forty (40) hours of state mandated In-Service training through classroom sessions conducted by the Berkshire County Chiefs of Police Association, or online through various agencies such as the Municipal Police Training Committee, Massachusetts State Police or the Municipal Police Institute. Mandated topics in 2021 included: Longevity; Domestic Terrorism; Bias Related Crimes; Legal Updates; CPR, AED and First Responder; De-Escalation Techniques; Pandemic Responsibilities; Handling Mental Health Emergencies and Cultural Competency; Domestic Violence; Emergency Medical Dispatch; Customer Service; Suicides; Firearms Training.

Most of these training opportunities were held on site in our training room where we are able to host multiple dates and invite surrounding law enforcement agencies to participate and network, also allowing many to attend while on shift to reduce overtime costs.

All Williamstown Police Officers are also certified Dispatchers, and therefore, all officers and civilian staff are mandated by the state to also receive a minimum of sixteen (16) hours annually of In-Service training in the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) field.

Interim Chief Ziemba received instruction in Animal Control issues to maintain certifications as an Animal Inspector. Eight (8) hours of continuing education each calendar year is required to maintain this status. Officer David Jennings was also certified as an Animal Control Officer.

We also conduct training within the Police Department, as well as for other agencies, with our own staff functioning as instructors. Within the department, Officer Brad Sacco instructs the annual qualifications of handgun & long gun at the firearms range. In addition to the In-Service trainings and certifications, the following are some of the specialized trainings that were able to be attended:

January:

- All employees completed their mandated Conflict of Interest Laws for Municipal Employees course & exam.
- All employees started with new policy reviews.
- All Officers started In-Service Training Requirements.
- Interim Chief Ziemba attended "Animal Cruelty Issues" an online course that instructs investigators what to look for when dealing with these types of issues.

February:

- All Officers completed their Taser Training.
- All employees continued with new policy reviews.

April:

- All employees continued with new policy reviews.
- All Officers completed In-Service required training.

May:

- All officers qualified with their duty weapons and patrol rifles.
- All employees continued with new policy reviews.

July:

- All employees continued with new policy reviews.

September:

- All employees continued with new policy reviews.

October:

- All employees continued with new policy reviews.

November:

- All Officer's completed the semi-annual firearms training course.
- All employees continued with new policy reviews.

Grants:

In early 2021, the following grant money was awarded to the Department to be used for the 2021 fiscal year. In most instances, the grants come with specific rules regarding implementation and they generally do not allow their use to supplant any portion of the operating budget.

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
State 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Support	Dispatch Equipment & Personnel Costs	\$38,392.00
State 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Training	EMD Training	\$29,330.88

Specialized Assignments:

While each officer serves in both the patrol and dispatch roles as their primary function, some are given specialized assignments to enhance our role in public safety. The specialized assignments often require additional specialized training and allow the officers to work regularly with other agencies to further hone their skills. In return, the department fosters relationships that work seamlessly when additional resources and manpower are needed from outside agencies.

- **Animal Control: Interim Chief Michael Ziemba, Officer David Jennings**

All officers respond to the various animal calls received within the year and enforce the Town Bylaws as they apply to dogs & cats. Oftentimes, callers are redirected to private pest control companies for nuisance wildlife calls as the Department is not authorized to relocate any wildlife. Dogs and cats with possible rabies exposure through bites or wounds of an unknown origin are viewed and quarantined as required by law. To maintain a level of consistency, Interim Chief Ziemba fills the role of Animal Inspector while both Ziemba and Officer David Jennings are certified Animal Control Officers.

- **Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force (BLETF): Officer Shuan William**

While assigned to the BLETF-DEU (Digital Evidence Unit), Officer Shuan William has assisted in numerous investigations with the BLETF, along with the downloading of cell phones & similar electronic devices (tablets/gps). The information that has been gained from these data extractions have helped law enforcement significantly strengthen the criminal cases they were derived from.

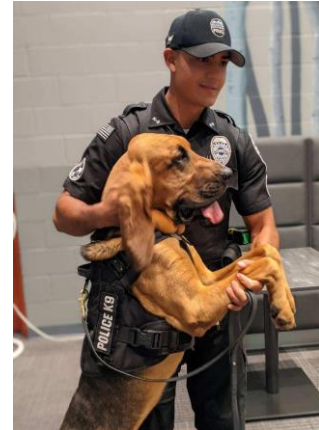
Since the implementation of the DEU ten (10) years ago, a growing number of towns from Berkshire County, along with the patrol barracks of the Massachusetts State Police, have taken advantage of having a Digital Evidence Unit in the county. DEU members have assisted in numerous investigations by

assisting other police officers in authoring and obtaining the necessary search warrants in order to be granted permission to search these electronic devices for evidence of a crime.

- **K-9 Program: Officer Anthony Duprat and K-9 Shelby**

Officer Anthony Duprat and K-9 Shelby have proven to be a great team, with many calls for service requesting their service and consistent training logged to date.

The Williamstown K-9 team is generally requested to respond to multiple calls for service in and around Williamstown. Several scenarios that may require the use of the K-9 for a search are: suspects that have just committed a crime and fled on foot; persons who have indicated that they wished to harm themselves and walked away; persons fleeing from a motor vehicle crash or stop, and lost or missing persons. Even in instances where a specific subject is not located, the tracks for suspects may provide vital information where evidence is found along the track, or ending in certain locations where motor vehicles were used to remove the suspect from the area.



The K-9 Unit participated in public service events which covered a range of topics from informative presentations on the role and use of the K-9 to school children of varying ages, presentations and question and answer sessions and demonstrations at various local parades and block parties as well as National Night Out. They also participate in annual MPTC Police Academy instruction/presentation to new recruits, explaining the entire process for utilizing a tracking dog in the field.

Training is a constant process for the K-9 Unit which, on average, logs many hours each month. Most training is done locally, in different scenarios, and in varying communities. Many times, training time is also spent with the Pittsfield Police Department, Adams Police Department and other local departments that benefit from a K-9 program.

Many local communities have recognized the benefit of having a certified K-9 Unit as part of the Police Department and have acquired one of their own. At the inception of Williamstown's K-9 program there were no grants that were offered to assist with expenses and startup costs, but that has now changed. Many area municipalities have been awarded these grants and now have K-9 Units trained to respond to calls for service, providing a larger resource of K-9 responses, easing the burden on the existing K-9 Units in the area.

To date, the new K-9 Units have selected either a Shepherd or Malinois canine, focusing training on tracking, article and/or narcotics detection and/or a patrol dog, leaving Williamstown's Shelby as the only bloodhound in all of Western Massachusetts. Bloodhounds are renowned for their scent tracking ability, and this is Shelby's only responsibility. Shelby has also proven to be a great bond between law enforcement and the community as she is a very friendly dog who loves attention.

- **School Safety: Officer Brad Sacco**

Under normal circumstances, patrols are directed to the area of the Williamstown Elementary, Pine Cobble and Mt. Greylock Regional High School, and the surrounding streets during the commutes to and

from school. Because of COVID and the school closures this year, limited school safety presence was needed. Any instruction we assisted with regarding lockdown scenarios was simply reminders via Zoom remotely. We look forward to a time when we can reconnect with the teachers and students in person.

While Williamstown is a safe community, the Police Department has dedicated much time to planning and preparing for a variety of emergency scenarios. While we hope these tragic events that occur across the nation never become a reality here, training for them is unfortunately a necessity. Keeping the schools safe is a team effort and would not be possible without the full cooperation and communication between several agencies. These agencies consist primarily of educators and administrators of the Williamstown Elementary School, Mount Greylock Regional High School and Pine Cobble School, and the Williamstown Police Department. Neighboring agencies also play a vital role in school safety as well. The Massachusetts State Police, North Adams Police and Lanesborough Police also assist and participate in our drills on a regular basis as their respective agencies would be called to respond if an event were to occur. In turn, we have assisted with drills and training in the North Adams, Adams, Florida, Lanesborough and Hancock Schools. Officers from each agency that are assigned to the school safety initiative communicate with and update each other on a regular basis regarding any changes/advancements in the schools.

To fully understand the topic of school safety and in an effort to stay current with national responses, Sacco was certified several years ago as an instructor for the ALICE (Alert. Lockdown. Inform. Counter. Evacuate.) curriculum, a nationally recognized program designed to educate and instruct Law Enforcement responses to active threats within the schools. Sacco is also certified in ALERRT, a similar program to ALICE.

This training is fact and statistics based and encourages a whole new way of addressing threats within the school; a drastic departure from the formerly accepted practices of simply locking students and staff into classrooms. The program also encourages attendance by school personnel and allows for law enforcement and school staff to take the curriculum practices back into the school for dissemination to the rest of the staff for implementation. This program, while more specifically designed for schools, can be adapted for most businesses, and can be presented by the Police Department upon request.

Williams College, Williamstown Elementary School, Mount Greylock Regional High School, Williamstown Youth Center, Pine Cobble School, Williamstown Commons, Sweet Brook Care Center and Images Cinema have also received this training presentation.

Programs

The Police Department continued its Community Policing approach throughout 2021, and will do so well into the future. Community Policing is a style of police work that puts heavy emphasis on partnering with the community and problem solving as many issues as possible that threaten to erode the quality of life within the community. A large emphasis is placed on the smaller, less obvious issues to help establish ways of dealing with them before they can become a source of erosion to the quality of life for the residents and visitors of our community. The Community Policing philosophy tackles the smaller issues that tend to lead up to these more serious crimes in an effort to prevent them from occurring altogether.

- **A Safer Williamstown:**

This program allows the Police Department to issue an informational brochure to all residents that apply for and receive either a Firearms Identification Card (FID) or a License to Carry (LTC) a firearm. The

brochure focuses on safe gun storage, gun safety rules, and important points of law. Through a partnership with Project Child Safe, the Police Department is also able to distribute gun safety locks, free of charge, to all residents. Anyone in need of gun safety locks should call or stop by the Williamstown Police Department. Officer Sacco performs all License to Carry (LTC) and Firearms Identification Card (FID) applications and renewals. This is generally done between 8AM - 2PM. Residents should call first to check availability.

The issuance of the FID or LTC by the Police Department has been expedited by the Police Department implementing MIRCS (Massachusetts Instant Record Check System). MIRCS is a program implemented through the Criminal History Systems Board for online instant record checks, photos and fingerprinting for firearms licensing applicants. It improves efficiency in the licensing process by confirming data and fingerprint identification immediately. This system allows for an electronic application process to reduce the delays caused by forwarding paper applications by mail.

- **Community Events/Planning:**

The Police Department usually stays busy directing traffic around numerous events throughout the year. Due to COVID issues, many large events were canceled this year. We were able to assist with Trick or Treat on Halloween and the July 4th parade as well as several other smaller events. Multiple patrols assisted with traffic control and interaction with community members for successful events with no injuries or issues.



- **Department of Justice Program**

In July of 2021 Chief Ziemba contacted the DOJ (Department of Justice) requesting to participate in their program of Strengthening Police and Community Relations. This endeavor is an effort to continue to open communication and dialogue with the community we serve, answering questions and providing transparency. All who live and work in the community will be welcomed to participate.

After many meetings, the planning committee will ultimately reach out to a much larger group for participation in the actual event slated for early March of 2022. The process is methodical and purposeful on the part of DOJ as they follow a structured program they've used in many communities. I'm thankful for the community members that have agreed to spend their time on this endeavor.

- **Hub Initiative:**

We are excited to participate in and help launch a coordinated group of professional service providers that will assist community members that are struggling on multiple fronts. This group effort is hopefully the start of many new alliances to assist people in our community that need it. Below is a quote from Amber Besaw, the Executive Director for Northern Berkshire Community Coalition:

Good Afternoon,

I am reaching out to you with a personal invitation for you and your organization to join nbCC and other community stakeholders in a project aimed at helping at-risk community members within our northern Berkshire region.

In 2020, nbCC reconvened community stakeholders from the areas of mental health, substance abuse and addiction related services, the justice system, as well as other human service organizations for a follow up meeting to the 2017 Sequential Intercept Mapping, Community Justice Workshop. In the December 2020 Zoom meeting, stakeholders came together to give updates, changes, and current needs for north Berkshire. As a part of this conversation, it was documented that the number 1 identified priority was a "regular meeting of key community partners to discuss high-risk individuals". It was with this as the catalyst, nbCC reached out to Dan Cortez at the Chelsea Police Department to learn more about the Hub Model and the work being done in that community. Dan presented to a small group of community stakeholders and nbCC made the decision to move this model forward in our community, as a response to what we had learned in our December meeting. Below are links to online resources to help describe the work in Chelsea and what the Hub model is.

Chelsea Hub

KFL&A Hub Model (scroll down to find the video)

You and your organization are key to the successful development of this initiative and taking our community coordination and support of at-risk community members to the next level in northern Berkshire. We hope that you will join this effort and be a part of making an even greater impact in our region. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

- **Reform:**

Continual training on our policy reform has been ongoing since December of 2020. This process involves adapting each policy to our agency (from an already accredited agency) and then formatting it for review by the entire department. Each policy is then acknowledged and signed off on to ensure accurate accountability from every member.

We have incorporated roughly fifty-five (55) of the 170 new policies into our department, phasing out older outdated versions for the modernized model that will ultimately allow us to follow through on the accreditation process. It's anticipated that the policy update will take the better part of another year.

We have transitioned to more documentation, more accountability and better record keeping, following State mandates for Internal Affairs documentation and reporting. This adds transparency and ownership to the professional standards we are implementing.

- **National Night Out:**

For the first time in several years, the police department hosted a town wide gathering for NNO located at the Spruces Park on Main Street this summer. The event was incredibly well attended, enough so that we look forward to hosting it again this year!

The event was sponsored and organized by Interim Chief Ziemba through the Police Department as well as the North Berkshire Community Coalition and local community member Andrea Bryant. Many entities donated time, resources and monies to make this event a success.

The evening at the Spruces saw many local vendors, kids' games, demonstrations, dunk tanks, hot dogs, hamburgs and the Operation Copsicle Truck from the Pittsfield Police Department. Police, Fire and EMS

interacted with the community for the four-hour event that was a great way for the community to get to meet with each other and get to know local first responders at the same time.

- **Lock Box Program:**

Special attention is focused on the senior citizens of Williamstown such quality-of-life issues, crime prevention measures and identity thefts and scams. One such initiative continued in 2021 included the purchase of numerous Lock Box units that are utilized to secure a spare key at an individual's home. In the event that a person may be locked inside their residence and is in need of emergency care, responding officers and/or emergency personnel can access the key from the Lock Box and make entry without causing any damage to the residence.

- **Noise Abatement Program:**

This program partners the Police Department with Williams College Campus Safety & Security, Williams College administration representatives, landlords who rent to off-campus students and the students themselves. The purpose of this collaboration is to make students aware of the quality-of-life issues within their neighborhoods and how they can help maintain them and still have a college related social life. Referred to as the "Three strikes program" by some students, this project advises students about the consequences of repetitive police response to off campus housing and the consequences to tenants and property owners.

- **Prescription Round-Up:**

The Prescription Drop Box is now located outside of the Police Station entry door and it continues to be a valued tool for the community. The drop box is available 24/7 to the community as a safe alternative to dispose of unwanted, unused and expired medications.

*** SHARPS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ***

TOWN CLERK/BOARD OF REGISTRARS*Nicole E. Pedercini Beverly, Town Clerk**Robert A. Jones, Registrar**Mark Windover, Registrar**Kurt Gabel, Registrar*

The Town Clerk's office serves as the repository of vital records for the town; conducts all activities related to the Annual Street Listing, voter registration, elections and town meeting, administers oaths to all public officials, issues dog licenses, records vital records and issues certified copies, provides notary public services, oversees employee and board members compliance with the Conflict of Interest law, and serves as the Public Records Officer.

Total Registered Voters as of December 31, 2021 – 4,909

Democrat – 2,292

Republican – 256

Unenrolled – 2,337

Green Rainbow -1

Libertarian –9

United Independent Party – 6

Socialist – 1

American Independent Party – 1

Pirate Party – 1

MA Independent Party – 1

Green Party USA – 1

Working Families – 3

Dog Licenses Issued – 2021

Male	27
Female	18
Neutered Male	101
Spayed Female	112
Kennel License (4 dogs)	0
Kennel License (10 dogs)	0

Net Value of Licenses	\$ 1,605.00
Late Fees (none due to Covid-19)	\$ 0.00
Gross Value of Dog License	\$ 1,605.00

Vital Records Recorded in 2021

Births	11
Marriage Intentions	50
Marriage Licenses	50
Deaths	89

Documents and Permits issued in 2021

Business Certificates	53
Certified Birth Certificates Issued	64
Certified Marriage Certificates Issued	55
Certified Death Certificates Issued	536

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2021 to JUNE 30, 2022
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Berkshire, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Williamstown, in the County of Berkshire.

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at Farley-Lamb Field in the Weston Athletic Complex, Latham and Meacham Streets, in said Williamstown on TUESDAY, THE EIGHTH DAY OF JUNE 2021 AT SIX O'CLOCK P.M. for the following purpose:

To act on all Articles of this warrant.

Proceeding: Moderator Adam Filson opened the Annual Town Meeting at 6:06 PM on June 9th, 2021 outside at Farley-Lamb Field (Weston Field Athletic Complex) at Williams College. A rain call was made by the Moderator to delay Town Meeting one day due to a poor weather forecast. This is the second year in a row that Town Meeting was held outside because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jane Patton represented the Select Board as Chair.

Stephen Sheppard represented the Finance Committee as Chair.

Stephanie Boyd and Chris Winters represented the Planning Board as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Phil McKnight represented the Community Preservation Committee as Chair.

Jane Nicholls, presented the League of Women Voters Town Employee Award to Julie Snow of the Accounting/Finance Department.

The Moderator announced the recipient of the Scarborough, Solomon & Flynt Community Award - Willinet. Deb Dane accepted the award on Willinet's behalf.

Three hundred and sixty-seven (367) registered voters checked into Town Meeting.

The Consent Agenda was not used this year. The Moderator received several requests from voters to not use it this year. This is the first year the Consent Agenda hasn't been used since 2018. The Moderator stated he would be recommending adding an article to next year's warrant to vote on adopting the Consent Agenda permanently.

REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES

Consent

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Select Board, the Town Manager, and all other officers and committees, and act thereon.

Proceeding: The Select Board Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 1.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 1 passed unanimously.

TO APPLY UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$230,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$230,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Town customarily applies excess receipts and unused appropriations of the previous fiscal year (Unreserved Fund Balance a/k/a "Free Cash") to reduce the tax rate.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$230,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to be used to reduce the tax rate.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 2 passed unanimously.

APPROPRIATION FOR DEBT SERVICE

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$683,687.50 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Purpose	Year Borrowed	Years Left	Total Outstanding 7/1/21	FY2022 Principal and Interest
Elementary School	2005	4	\$785,000	\$219,700.00
Police Station	2018	17	\$4,340,000	\$342,987.50
Cable Mills	2015	4	\$440,000	\$121,000.00

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$252,687.50 from taxation, \$121,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund and \$310,000 be appropriated from the Unreserved Fund balance.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Each of the above items is a bond issue the Town has committed to repay over the number of years remaining as indicated.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$252,687.50 from taxation, \$121,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund and \$310,000 be appropriated from the Unreserved Fund balance to pay interest and maturing debt.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 3 passed unanimously.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$1,132,000 or any other sum, for the following capital expenditures, or take any other action in relation thereto.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Hart Landfill - Engineering Services	Public Works	\$ 30,000
Hoosac River - Bank Erosion Control	Public Works	\$ 203,000
Replace Trk 5 - Single Axle Dump	Highway	\$ 178,000
Replace Trk 23 - Dump Truck/plow/sander	Highway	\$ 83,000
Sidewalk Plow (additional)*	Highway	\$ 156,000
Subtotal		\$650,000
Inflow & Infiltration Reduction	Sewer	\$300,000
Cold Spring Lift Stations	Sewer	\$80,000
Replace 2001 mechanical sewer rodder	Sewer	\$70,000
Subtotal		\$450,000
Replace 2009 Scada System	Water	\$17,000
Chlorine analyzers	Water	\$15,000
Subtotal		\$32,000
Total Capital		\$1,132,000

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$494,000 from taxation, that \$156,000 be transferred from the Stabilization Fund, that \$450,000 be transferred from Estimated Sewer Receipts and that \$32,000 be transferred from Estimated Water Receipts.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Highway Department and Public Works items are funded by the property tax. Sewer and Water Department items are funded by user fees. The \$156,000 transfer from Stabilization Fund for the cost of the Highway Department sidewalk plow requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote raise and appropriate \$494,000 from taxation; that \$156,000 be transferred from the Stabilization Fund, that \$450,000 be transferred from Estimated Sewer Receipts and that \$32,000 be transferred from Estimated Water Receipts.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 4 passed unanimously.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Sewer Receipts the sum of \$1,055,446.01 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Sewer Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$713,242.80 from Estimated Sewer Receipts and the sum of \$342,203.21 from Sewer Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The sewer rate will remain unchanged from the previous year. The Sewer Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses related to the operation of the department are paid by user fees rather than taxation.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$713,242.80 from Estimated Sewer Receipts and the sum of \$342,203.21 from Sewer Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 5 passed unanimously.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Water Receipts the sum of \$996,021.82 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Water Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$730,375.00 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$265,646.82 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The water rate will remain unchanged. The Water Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses of the Department are paid by user fees, not taxation.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$730,375.00 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$265,646.82 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 6 passed unanimously.

WATER RATE

Article 7. To see if the Town will, in accordance with § 7, Chapter 606 of the Acts and Resolves of 1941, vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.70 per 100 cubic feet of water as fixed by the Select Board at their meeting of April 26, 2021 to be effective July 1, 2021, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.70 per 100 cubic feet.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This is unchanged from the previous year.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.70 per 100 cubic feet.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 7 passed unanimously.

TRANSFER STATION DEPARTMENT

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts or other available funds the sum of \$252,848.67 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Transfer Station Department, including costs of public trash removal or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$232,848.67 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and \$20,000 from general taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$232,848.67 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and \$20,000 from general taxation.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 8 passed unanimously.

CHAPTER 90 HIGHWAY FUNDS

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the Town during the fiscal year for Capital Projects, and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow such amounts in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Chapter 90 funds are distributed by the State for approved highway projects. The Town is required to spend the money before being reimbursed by the state. Since the Town cannot spend money it does not have, this article authorizes the Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of receiving the Chapter 90 reimbursement from the Commonwealth.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 9.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 9 passed by majority vote.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$175,000 for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$175,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Reserve Fund is established under G.L. c. 40 § 6 to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures authorized by the Finance Committee.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$175,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 10 passed unanimously.

TO FUND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, established under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 20, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$46,729.04 from Unreserved Fund Balance; that \$2,300.36 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$782.27

be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$188.33 be appropriated from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts to the OPEB Trust Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Last year's appropriation of \$50,000 continued the process to put the Town on a pay-as-you-go basis for Other Post-Employment Benefits, primarily health insurance for retirees. This funding is important to maintain our Aa1 bond rating.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$46,729.04 from Unreserved Fund Balance; that \$2,300.36 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$782.27 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$188.33 be appropriated from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts to the OPEB Trust Fund.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 11 passed unanimously.

APPROPRIATION TO COMPENSATED BALANCES RESERVE FUND

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$150,000 to the Compensated Balances Reserve Fund, established under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 13D, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to Compensated Balances Reserve Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This appropriation sets aside funds to meet our legal obligation to pay accrued employee benefits upon separation from the Town's employment.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to Compensated Balances Reserve Fund.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 12 passed unanimously.

REVOLVING FUND SPENDING LIMIT

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to set annual spending limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law chapter 44, §53E½.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Expend	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	Spending Limit
Inspection Services	Building Commissioner	Inspection Fees: Gas, Plumbing, Electrical	Salaries/ Expenses	\$75,000

Public Library	Library Trustees	Fees and Fines	Supplies, Services and Equipment	\$25,000
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The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to set annual spending limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law chapter 44, §53E½.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 13 passed unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$8,670,658.07 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the several Town Departments, namely:

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$8,446,654.07 from taxation; that \$117,081 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$82,219 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; that \$9,704 be appropriated from Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund; and that \$15,000 be appropriated from the Sherman Burbank Memorial Trust.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The General Government appropriation is a 5.6% increase over the current year. This is anticipated to be allocated with \$323,916 to Executive Departments, \$3,285,482.37 to Administration and Finance, \$424,274.64 to Community Development, \$1,526,464.64 to Public Safety, \$2,187,550.49 to Public Works and \$922,969.93 to Human Services.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$8,446,654.07 from taxation; that \$117,081 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$82,219 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; that \$9,704 be appropriated from Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund; and that \$15,000 be appropriated from the Sherman Burbank Memorial Trust.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 14 passed by majority vote.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$12,346,994.08 or any other sum, being Williamstown's share of the Mount Greylock Regional School District FY22 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Note: This is an Omnibus Budget, i.e. Town Meeting may vote only a total amount.

	FY2021	FY2022
Operating Assessment	\$10,801,659	\$11,315,860.08
Capital Assessment	\$ 1,311,764	\$ 1,031,134.00
Total Assessment	\$12,113,423	\$12,346,994.08

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,346,994.08 from taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Williamstown assessment is a combined budget of the Elementary School and Mt. Greylock High School due to regionalization. The capital assessment includes debt repayment for the high school renovation as approved in March 2016, and excluded from the levy limit. This bond was for a term of 30 years. The portion of operating assessment attributable to Williamstown Elementary School is \$5,746,228.68 and the portion attributable to Mount Greylock Regional School is \$5,569,631.40.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,346,994.08 from taxation.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 15 passed by majority vote.

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$267,287 or any other sum, being Williamstown's share of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District FY22 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$267,287 from taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Note: This is an Omnibus Budget, i.e. Town Meeting may vote only a total amount.

The Williamstown assessment is a 2.64% decrease from FY21. This reflects one time use of \$23,264 of state ESSER II (Covid related) funds.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$267,287 from taxation.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 16 passed unanimously.

WILLIAMSTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 6A to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce to advertise the Town's resources, advantages, and attractions, in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Finance Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The appropriation for the Chamber of Commerce is intended to promote tourism.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce.

Amy Jeschawitz asked if the dollar amount is based on ten percent (10%) of hospitality and meals tax. Mr. Sheppard, as Chair of the Finance Committee, responded stating that there is an informal agreement that the amount is based on the hospitality and meals tax but it is not a binding agreement. Amy understood and there was no further discussion.

Article 17 passed by majority vote.

WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,000 for the Williamstown Youth Center to provide youth recreation services, in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Finance Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,000 to support the Williamstown Youth Center.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Youth Center appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,000 to support the Williamstown Youth Center.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 18 passed unanimously.

SAND SPRINGS RECREATIONAL CENTER

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,000 for the Sand Springs Recreational Center to provide recreation services for Williamstown residents, in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Finance Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,000 to support Sand Springs Recreational Center.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This appropriation is at the level funded in FY19 and FY20.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,000 to support Sand Springs Recreational Center.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 19 passed by majority vote.

WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Community Preschool to provide preschool services for Williamstown residents, in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Finance Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to support Williamstown Community Preschool.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This is a new request.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to support Williamstown Community Preschool.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 20 passed by majority vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – COMMITTEE EXPENSES

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2021 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2022 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2022 or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2021 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2022 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2022 or take any other action in relation thereto.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 21 passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2022 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of **\$218,722.50** to fund a grant to the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust in unrestricted funds for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown, including support of Northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity of at least \$40,000 and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 8 - 0 - 1 the Town vote to appropriate \$200,000 from the Community Preservation Fund and to release and re-appropriate \$18,722.50 previously appropriated to the Affordable Housing Trust for a restricted purpose by Article 22 of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1 the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2022 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$218,722.50 to fund a grant to the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust in unrestricted funds for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown, including support of Northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity of at least \$40,000 and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 22 passed by majority vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2022 estimated annual revenues, for historic preservation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of **\$50,000**, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2023, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Historical Museum for preservation of the Dolan-Jenks Barn in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2022 estimated annual revenues, for historic preservation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$50,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2023, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Historical Museum for preservation of the Dolan-Jenks Barn in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 23 passed by majority vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – OPEN SPACE

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2022 estimated annual revenues, for open space purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of **\$56,000**, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2022, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation for a portion of the local share of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction for approximately 18 acres of agricultural property in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Community Preservation Committee recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 5 - 3 - 0.

The Select Board recommends by a vote of 4 - 1 - 0 the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2022 estimated annual revenues, for

open space purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$56,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2022, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation for a portion of the local share of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction for approximately 18 acres of agricultural property in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

After a brief discussion of voters in favor of this article, the Moderator then declared article 24 passed by majority vote.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the costs and services related to updating Williamstown's Master Plan, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance for this purpose.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Williamstown has historically done a new master plan approximately every 20 years, (1963, 1983, 2002). The current master plan is approaching 20 years old. Many things have changed over those two decades and it is time to take a fresh look at the direction of Williamstown. The timing is ideal with Williams underway on a strategic plan and 2020 Census data soon to be released. Massachusetts General Law makes Master Planning the responsibility of the Planning Board. In 2002 the Board appointed a Master Plan steering committee to oversee this work and supervise an outside consultant to run community visioning and input sessions and compile the document.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance for this purpose.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 25 passed by majority vote.

BOARD MEMBER STIPEND

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to direct the Select Board to conduct a study into the feasibility of paying stipends or other such payments as may be determined to members of various Boards and Committees of the Town that are currently unpaid and to deliver a report about such a study prior to next year's Annual Meeting.

The Select Board recommends by a vote of 4 - 0 - 0 the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: The Chair of the Select Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to conduct a study into the feasibility of paying stipends or other such payments as may be determined to members of various

Boards and Committees of the Town that are currently unpaid and to deliver a report about such a study prior to next year's Annual Meeting.

Hugh Daley stated this is a decision tree point. If this article passed then in the future, the Select Board would consider stipend payments to the Select Board. He asked if voters would think about this article in this way. If someone does not want stipends paid to the Select Board then to vote no now. Several voters stated they were concerned about voting on a study if they didn't know the monetary cost. Hugh Daley informed voters the Select Board has a budget of \$5,000 but they would not spend that much on this. One voter spoke to the fact that she is not in favor of the study but is in favor of a stipend.

A standing vote was taken and article 26 passed by majority vote, 163 in favor and 112 opposed.

STREETLIGHTS

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$265,000 for the purpose of converting streetlights to LED fixtures in order to reduce electricity consumption, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$265,000 from the Stabilization Fund for this purpose.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This would cover the installation of new LED lighting at approximately 550 locations with streetlights, reducing estimated annual electricity usage from 300,000 kWh to 100,000. It is expected that the savings from this will pay for this project in three years. The use of the Stabilization Fund requires a 2/3 vote in the affirmative.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$265,000 from the Stabilization Fund for this purpose.

Shira Wohlberg was concerned about the color of the LED lighting. Nancy Nylen of The COOL Committee assured Shira the COOL Committee, The Town and the Fire District are looking at a warm color bulb opposed to the harsher color they were originally looking at.

The Moderator declared article 27 passed by supermajority vote.

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT MARIJUANA REGULATION AMENDMENTS

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend §70-3.3A(2) Business Uses, by renaming the current marijuana related use categories, and modify permitting and zone categories as follows;

- *Marijuana retail is replaced by Marijuana Retailer, all zone and permitting to remain as is. Marijuana production facility is replaced by Marijuana Cultivator, to be permitted only in Limited Industrial and Rural Residence 2 & 3, and Marijuana Product Manufacturer, to be permitted only in Limited Industrial.*

Amend §70-9.2 by deleting the definitions for MARIJUANA PRODUCTION FACILITY and MARIJUANA RETAILER and adding the following:

MARIJUANA CULTIVATOR - An entity licensed to cultivate, process and package Marijuana, and to Transfer Marijuana to other Marijuana Establishments as defined by 935 CMR 500, but not to Consumers. A Craft Marijuana Cooperative is a type of Marijuana Cultivator.

MARIJUANA PRODUCT MANUFACTURER - An entity licensed to obtain, compound, blend, extract, infuse or otherwise make or prepare a Cannabis or Marijuana Product, process and package Marijuana or Marijuana Products and to transfer these products to other Marijuana Establishments, but not to Consumers.

MARIJUANA RETAILER - An entity licensed to purchase, repackage, white label, and transport marijuana or marijuana product from Marijuana Establishments and to transfer or otherwise transfer this product to Marijuana Establishments and to sell to Consumers.

This article will realign the Town's definitions and legal terminology associated with all marijuana related land uses with the definitions and legal terminology used by both state statute and the Commonwealth's Cannabis Control Commission (CCC). When the Town passed initial regulations in 2017 the CCC and its enabling legislation did not yet exist. This article makes no changes to how these land uses are regulated in the community or where they are allowed. It only aligns town regulation with state regulations.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends that Town Meeting adopt this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Stephanie Boyd, Chair of the Planning Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 28.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 28 passed by supermajority vote.

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT MARIJUANA CULTIVATORS

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend §70-3.3A(2) Business Uses & §70-3.3B Accessory Uses by amending the section on marijuana cultivators to create new use categories for types of marijuana cultivators and marijuana microbusinesses as follows.

ZONING DISTRICTS	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	VB	PB	LI	SG
§ 70-3.3A(2) BUSINESS USES								
Marijuana Cultivator								
Indoor Cultivation	No	No	No	No	No	No	BA	No
Outdoor Cultivation	No	BA ⁶	No	No	No	No	No	No

Adding footnote 65,000 square feet of canopy or less is permitted by right.

Amend §70-9.2 by adding the following definitions;

MARIJUANA CULTIVATOR, INDOOR - An indoor cultivator means one that cultivates the growth of marijuana plants within a building through use of artificial light. An Indoor Marijuana Cultivator shall be entirely enclosed in a building and activity therein shall not be visible to a public way or adjacent properties. All indoor cultivators shall use artificial ventilation and filtering equipment to minimize the impact of odors on surrounding properties.

MARIJUANA CULTIVATOR, OUTDOOR - An outdoor cultivator means one that cultivates the growth of Cannabis without the use of artificial lighting in the Canopy area at any point in time. Artificial lighting is permissible only to maintain Immature or Vegetative Mother Plants.

Amend §70-7.2 by the creation of a new section (K);

K. Marijuana Establishments. Marijuana Establishments with the exception Marijuana Retailers, as described by this chapter, shall be allowed in accordance with § 70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule and shall abide by the following development standards.

- (1) Expert Review: In reviewing applications for special permits the Zoning Board of Appeals reserves the right to hire an independent consultant(s) with experience in evaluating marijuana establishments or similar facilities on behalf of municipalities and whose services shall be paid for by the applicant(s).
- (2) Waste Management: Marijuana Establishments shall compost organic waste composed of or containing marijuana and marijuana products in accordance with applicable regulations of the Cannabis Control Commission, including, but not limited to 935 CMR 500.105(12). A waste management plan identifying all waste streams and method of disposal shall be submitted to the ZBA for review.

- (3) Nuisance: No use shall be allowed at a Marijuana Establishment which creates a nuisance to abutters or to the surrounding area, or which creates any hazard, including but not limited to, fire, explosion, fumes, gas, smoke, odors, obnoxious dust, vapors, offensive sound or vibration, flashes, glare, objectionable effluent or electrical interference, which may impair the normal use and peaceful enjoyment of any property, structure or dwelling in the area.
- (4) Indoor Marijuana Cultivators, Marijuana Product Manufacturers, and Marijuana Testing Facilities as defined by 70-9, shall abide by the following development standards.
- a. Odor Control and Mitigation: A detailed plan to control and mitigate odors or emissions of any kind from exiting the proposed facility, using the Best Available Technology must be submitted. The plan must include Design and Specifications of all filtration technologies and equipment proposed to be implemented along with an action plan addressing the response to any emissions that may occur during the operation of the facility. If at any time during the ongoing operations of a duly licensed facility emissions or odors occur, the marijuana establishment will immediately correct such condition and inform the permit granting authority in writing of the measures taken to mitigate.
 - b. Renewable Energy Requirements: Applicants shall be required to integrate roof or ground mounted solar photovoltaic systems or an alternative renewable energy technology to provide at least 25 percent of the energy needs of the facility. The Zoning Board of Appeals may modify or waive this requirement based on site conditions or other considerations.
- (4) Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators as defined by 70-9, shall abide by the following development standards.
- (a) Lot Area Requirement: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be located on 5 or more acres of land.
 - (b) Facility Setback Requirements: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators facilities, including all grow area fencing and security apparatus, shall be subject to 150-foot side and rear setbacks. Marijuana Cultivators licensed for 1 acre or less of canopy shall be set back 150 feet from all public ways. Marijuana Cultivators licensed for more than 1 acre of canopy shall be set back 200 feet from all public ways. No part of the facility as defined by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission shall be located less than 500 feet from the closest point of any residential dwelling, not in common ownership with the applicant, in existence at the time of the operator's application to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a special permit.
 - (c) Screening: All secure area fencing as required by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission shall be screened from the public way and neighboring properties by site appropriate native vegetation. Vegetation shall be at 90% opacity and equal to the height of fencing within three years of planting. Any razor or barbed wire on required security shall not be visible from the public way or abutting property. All applicants shall submit a screening plan. The Zoning Board of Appeals may waive this requirement if

topography or other site considerations produce adequate screening.

- (d) Lighting: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall meet the security requirements of 935 CMR 500 without the use of overnight visible outdoor lighting. Visible lighting on site shall be limited to that necessary to provide safe egress from buildings and parking as required by the Massachusetts State Building Code and/or the Cannabis Control Commission and shall be of full cut off Type 3 fixtures as defined by 70-5.4(D). All applicants shall submit a lighting plan as defined by 70-5.4(D) of this chapter to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of their application.
- (e) Odor Dispersal Plan: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall utilize Best Available Technology which may include vegetative buffers to mitigate cannabis plant odors. Applicants shall submit a detailed odor dispersal plan to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of their application.

This article will establish strict regulations for both indoor and outdoor cannabis cultivation. Both are currently allowed in Williamstown without special development standards unique to this particular use.

The Planning Board recommends that Town Meeting adopt this article by a vote of 4 to 1.

The Select Board does not recommend the adoption of this article by a vote of 1 - 4.

Proceeding: Stephanie Boyd, Chair of the Planning Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 29.

Stan Parese made the following amendment which was seconded, to delete footnote 6 which was adding the words "5,000 square feet of canopy or less is permitted by right" in the outdoor cultivation business uses and in zoning districts RR2 and RR3. This amendment by majority vote.

Anne Hogeland made the following amendment which was seconded, to add a section labeled as 4 (f) on page 15 of the warrant that states "Intent to Supplement Articles V and VIII: Article V Development Standards and Article VIII Section 70-8.4 Special Permits shall apply to all marijuana cultivations, without limitation in any respect by the provisions of this Section 70-7.2(K)." This amendment passed by majority vote.

Article 29 passed as amended by supermajority vote of 228 in favor and 49 opposed.

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT REMOVAL OF LIMITED INDUSTRIAL FROM EASTLAWN CEMETERY

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend the Williamstown Zoning Map by rezoning the portions of Assessor's Parcels 121 – 88 & 98 General Residence from the present Limited Industrial.

This article will rezone an area of Eastlawn Cemetery and Clover Hill Farm from Industrial to Residential. This is largely a map correction. The area is zoned industrial as a holdover from an earlier era when all of Water Street was industrially zoned and this land was envisioned for a small industrial park per the 1963 Master Plan. This zoning is no longer in line with the long-term vision of the Town.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends that Town Meeting adopt this article.

The Select Board recommends by a vote of 4 - 0 - 0 the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Chris Winters, Vice Chair of the Planning Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 30.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 30 passed unanimously.

**ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT
EXTENSION OF LIMITED BUSINESS DISTRICT**

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend the Williamstown Zoning Map by rezoning the portions of Assessor's Parcels 119-112, 112-105, & 102-14 Limited Business from the present General Residence.

This article will rezone two business properties that are currently non-conforming uses. The properties in question are 248 Cole Avenue (119-112) (former Leo's Luncheonette and LaPlante Appliance) and 25 Main Street (112-105, & 102-14) (former Dion Money Management and Country Peddler) Each building was on the market during 2020 and each building's non-conforming zoning status led to prospective buyers facing difficulties in re-purposing the commercial space. Rezoning these parcels to the Limited Business designation, which each are currently adjacent to, will prevent them from becoming underutilized properties in the future.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends that Town Meeting adopt this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Chris Winters, Vice Chair of the Planning Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 31.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 31 passed by supermajority vote.

LAND OWNER REQUEST ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend §70-3.3A(2) to permit Self Storage by right in the Limited Industrial District and including a new use category "cultivation and processing of retail and wholesale aggregate, soil and nursery stock" allowed by right in the Limited Industrial District and not allowed in other districts.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Jane Patton, Chair of the Select Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 32.

The Moderator then declared article 32 passed by supermajority vote.

MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunication system and any related services, or to take any other action relative thereto.

This is the second step of a multi-meeting approval process, with the first part approved at last year's Town Meeting. A Municipal Light Plant is the form of government organization used by towns that provide their own broadband service. If Williamstown decides that entering this market is viable and appropriate, then a subsequent Town Meeting will be asked to fund and organize such an operation if it were to be approved.

This is a **ballot vote** and requires $\frac{2}{3}$ voting in the affirmative.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Chair of the Select Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 33. This article is a ballot vote and requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in favor of the Municipal Light Plant. The ballot vote determined 255 in favor and 3 opposed.

This article passed by supermajority vote.

CITIZENS PETITION - NET ZERO RESOLUTION

Article 34:

WHEREAS, Massachusetts has adopted a net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions goal, as outlined in the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act and updated in subsequent plans and legislation; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Williamstown is one of over 270 cities and towns across the Commonwealth that have committed to reducing municipal energy use as part of the Green Communities Program; and

WHEREAS, A net zero community gets as much energy from clean energy sources as it uses, usually from a combination of energy efficiency, local clean energy production, and purchasing renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 communities in Massachusetts have or are in the process of adopting greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and comprehensive, cost-effective plans to achieve these goals; and

WHEREAS, The Williamstown Select Board adopted community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals in 2001, Town Meeting passed a resolution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2008, and the 2002 Master Plan incorporated renewable energy and net zero waste goals; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Williamstown and its residents and businesses have been taking actions to promote clean energy, reduce carbon emissions, and increase resilience including: installing municipal solar arrays; supporting private and public renewable energy installations; procuring electric vehicles and installing electric vehicle charging stations; opting for increased renewable energy in the municipal electricity aggregation; promoting residential and commercial energy efficiency programs; requiring reusable and non-polystyrene shopping bags and take-out food containers; and initiating steps to convert to LED streetlights, among other efforts; and

WHEREAS, Williamstown and many Massachusetts communities are already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, including rising temperatures, increased frequency and severity of storms and flooding, increased health risks from vector-borne diseases and excessive heat events, and many of these impacts disproportionately impact lower income households and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, the state's centralized energy system and transit infrastructure is becoming more vulnerable to climate-related risks like storms and extreme temperatures; and

WHEREAS, Williamstown has participated in a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program and incorporated impacts of Climate Change into the development of a Williamstown Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Net Zero communities adopt multi-pronged strategies including energy efficiency, renewable energy, zero waste, and nature-based solutions to CO₂ removal, such as the protection and restoration of forests, wetlands and other ecosystems; and

WHEREAS the pathway to Net Zero Energy Community advances a transition to clean energy in six sectors including electric power; transportation; heating and cooling of buildings; industrial processes; and natural gas distribution and service; and

WHEREAS, the transition to a Net Zero community brings many potential benefits, including improved health, cleaner air and water, short and long-term cost savings, the creation of clean energy and energy efficiency jobs, and the ability to retain more of our energy dollars in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, as residents of the Town of Williamstown, we recognize our responsibility, individually and collectively, to participate in the global effort to reduce the impact of climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions locally.

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has committed to achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 and developing a road map.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Town of Williamstown pursue **a Net Zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions goal** committing to achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 and **develop and begin implementing a comprehensive climate action plan** by 2023 in collaboration with the community whereby we:

- (a) Take action to support clean, efficient, affordable, renewable technologies and approaches to heating, cooling and powering our homes and businesses; fueling our vehicles; minimizing and disposing of waste; and other activities to achieve a Net Zero GHG emissions goal;
- (b) Include consideration of our Net Zero GHG emissions goal and climate change impacts in all municipal decisions and planning and procurement activities;
- (c) Take action to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate;
- (d) Ensure that our climate actions recognize the needs of vulnerable members of our community and are inclusive and equitable.

The Select Board recommends adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

Proceeding: Nancy Nylen, of the COOL Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 34.

There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 34 passed by majority vote.

Adjournment

Motion: There being no further business before the Town a motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the 2021 Annual Town Meeting. Following unanimous voice vote, the Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

A true copy, attest:

Nicole E. Pedercini
Town Clerk

And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof in four or more public places, as well as the United States Post Office within the Town.

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant, with your doings to the Town Clerk on or before the time set for holding said meeting.

Williamstown Select Board

Date: May 10, 2021

Jane Patton, chair
Andrew Hogeland, vice-chair
Hugh Daley

Anne O'Connor
Jeffrey Thomas

Approved by roll call vote at noticed Zoom meeting of Select Board, May 10, 2021.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION MAY 11, 2021

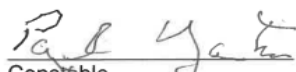
SELECTBOARD (3 YEAR) (1)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
ANTHONY BOSKOVICH	294	60	288	642
JEFFREY JOHNSON	424	215	502	1141
WRITE INS	2	0	1	3
BLANKS	18	6	13	37
TOTAL	738	281	804	1823
SELECTBOARD (3 YR WITH 1 REMAINING)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
WADE HASTY	373	177	440	990
ALBERT CUMMINGS, IV	339	90	343	772
WRITE INS	6	2	5	13
BLANKS	20	12	16	48
TOTAL	738	281	804	1823
LIBRARY TRUSTEE (3 YEAR) (1)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
CHARLES BONENTI	578	205	617	1400
WRITE INS	2	3	5	10
BLANKS	158	73	182	413
TOTAL	738	281	804	1823
PLANNING BOARD (5 YEAR) (1)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
SUSAN PUDESTER	264	88	270	622
KENNETH KUTTNER	168	87	195	450
ROGER LAWRENCE	264	90	286	640
WRITE INS	0	0	2	2
BLANKS	42	16	51	109
TOTAL	738	281	804	1823
HOUSING AUTHORITY (5 YEAR) (1)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
JOAN DIVER	219	73	250	542
CHARLES STEPHEN DEW	385	167	406	958
WRITE INS	2	0	4	6
BLANKS	132	41	144	317
TOTAL	738	281	804	1823
NO. BERK. VOCATIONAL SD (3 YEAR)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
LAILA BOUCHER	566	198	602	1366
WRITE INS	3	1	4	8
BLANKS	169	82	198	449
TOTAL	738	281	804	1823

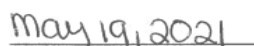
Annual Town Meeting - June 8, 2021

Berkshire, ss:

May 19, 2021

I hereby certify that I have posted attested copies of the above Warrant in four public places in the Town of Williamstown, and the Post Office at least seven days before said Annual Town Meeting.


Constable


Date

TREASURER / COLLECTOR*Rachel Vadnais, Treasurer*

Treasurer's Receipts		
For the year ending June 30, 2021		
Department	Description	Amount
<u>Tax and Excise</u>		
Treasurer-Collector	Personal Property	\$ 424,403.33
Treasurer-Collector	Real Estate Tax	\$ 17,571,974.78
Treasurer-Collector	Motor Vehicle Excise	\$ 686,613.90
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Property Tax	\$ 34,350.65
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on MV Excise	\$ 3,737.77
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Tax Liens	\$ 14,941.71
Treasurer-Collector	Tax Liens & Foreclosures	\$ 125,216.88
Treasurer-Collector	Payments in Lieu of Tax	\$ 166,426.86
Treasurer-Collector	Meals Tax	\$ 106,573.15
Treasurer-Collector	Hotel and Motel Tax	\$ 347,585.02
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation-State Match	\$ 74,903.00
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation Surcharge	\$ 263,884.89
Treasurer-Collector	Cannabis Local Option Excise	\$ 310,915.99
Total Tax and Excise		\$ 20,131,527.93
<u>Utility Charges</u>		
Sewer Department	Sewer Charges	\$ 1,116,175.01
Water Department	Water Charges	\$ 1,055,420.68
Landfill Department	Landfill Payments	\$ 32,425.43
Landfill Department	Landfill Stickers	\$ 154,280.00
Landfill Department	Landfill Bags	\$ 70,883.13
Total Utility Charges		\$ 2,429,184.25
<u>Other Charges for Services</u>		
Cemetery	Cemetery Interments	\$ 15,100.00
Police	Off-Duty Fees	\$ 169,778.75
Total Charges for Services		\$ 184,878.75
<u>Fees</u>		
Assessor	Fees	\$ -
Community Development	Fees	\$ 855.00

Cemetery Department	Perpetual Care	\$ 18,100.00
Conservation Commission	Fees	\$ 6,804.29
Council on Aging	Fees	\$ 2,137.10
Energy Credits	Fees	\$ 8,857.22
Health Department	Fees	\$ 7,556.00
Highway	Fees	\$ 3,203.08
Historical Commission	Fees	\$ 270.00
Library	Fees	\$ 711.32
Landfill Department	Fees	\$ 3,998.43
Planning Board	Fees	\$ 2,830.00
Police Department	Fees	\$ 6,403.75
Police Department	Dispatch Services	\$ 57,061.30
Selectman	Fees	\$ 350.00
Treasurer - Collector	Cannabis Host Impact Fee	\$ 354,037.00
Sealer of Weights	Fees	\$ 730.00
Town Clerk	Fees	\$ 6,360.95
Treasurer - Collector	Fees	\$ 42,124.28
Insp Services-Revolver	Fees	\$ 94,552.20
Sewer Department	Fees	\$ 234.00
Town Manager	Fees	\$ 1,088.73
Water Department	Fees	\$ 4,162.38
Zoning Board	Fees	\$ 1,430.00
Total Fees		\$ 623,857.03
<u>Licenses and Permits</u>		
Community Development	Licenses and Permits	\$ 127,117.00
Health Department	Licenses and Permits	\$ 20,015.00
Highway	Licenses and Permits	\$ 3,000.00
Police Department	Licenses and Permits	\$ 2,485.00
Selectmen	Licenses and Permits-Liquor Licenses	\$ 13,100.00
Selectmen	Licenses and Permits	\$ 40.00
Sign Commission	Licenses and Permits	\$ 1,517.00
Town Clerk	Licenses and Permits	\$ 1,506.00
Total Licenses and Permits		\$ 168,780.00
<u>State Government - State Aid</u>		
Treasurer-Collector	Veterans Services	\$ 51,922.00
Treasurer-Collector	Abatement Reimbursement	\$ 1,014.00
Treasurer-Collector	State Owned Land	\$ 163,531.00

Treasurer-Collector	Chapter 90	\$ -
Treasurer-Collector	Lottery	\$ 1,013,834.00
Treasurer-Collector	CARES---Covid 19 Support	\$ 184,053.00
Treasurer-Collector	ARPA	\$ 389,053.02
Total State Aid		\$ 1,803,407.02
<u>State Government - Grants</u>		
Treasurer-Collector	Assist Firefighters Grant	\$ 1,953.00
Treasurer-Collector	Com Compact IT	\$ -
Treasurer-Collector	Cultural Council	\$ 7,500.00
Treasurer-Collector	Municipal Vulnerability	\$ -
Treasurer-Collector	Mohawk Bike Trail	\$ 189,028.91
Treasurer-Collector	E-911	\$ 34,519.92
Treasurer-Collector	PDMC-Hazard Mitigation	\$ 2,650.77
Treasurer-Collector	Police-Drug Task Force	\$ 5,222.83
Treasurer-Collector	Police Systems Improvement	\$ -
Treasurer-Collector	Polling Reimbursement	\$ 887.04
Treasurer-Collector	Library Title LIG/MEG Grant	\$ 14,297.98
Treasurer-Collector	Council on Aging - Formula Grant	\$ 25,176.00
Treasurer-Collector	Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant	\$ 4,900.00
Treasurer-Collector	Mass DOT-Complete Streets	\$ -
Treasurer-Collector	RRA TNC Ride	\$ 12.40
Treasurer-Collector	Solarize MA	\$ -
Total State Grants		\$ 286,148.85
<u>Fines and Forfeits</u>		
Commonwealth		
Police Department	Court Fines	\$ 4,642.45
Total Fines and Forfeits	Parking Tickets	\$ 3,215.00
		\$ 7,857.45
<u>Sale of Assets</u>		
Cemetery	Sale of Lots	\$ 1,700.00
DPW	Sale of Vehicles	\$ 14,440.00
		\$ 16,140.00
<u>Interest Income</u>		
Treasurer-Collector		
Treasurer-Collector	Investment Interest	\$ 219,193.16
Total Interest Income	Trust Interest	\$ 21,113.11
		\$ 240,306.27

<u>Gifts and Contributions</u>		
Council on Aging	Donations & Fundraisers	\$ 1,603.00
Library	Operations Gifts	\$ 17,139.00
Library	Books	\$ 5,480.78
Police Department	Contribution - General	\$ 5,580.00
Police Department	Contribution - Williams College	\$ -
Town	Health Coordinator	\$ 2,000.00
Library	Renovations	\$ 35,000.00
Total Gifts and Contributions		\$ 66,802.78
<u>Payroll and Insurance</u>		
Payroll Deductions		
Payroll Deductions	Federal Withholding	\$ 537,586.99
Payroll Deductions	Medicare Withholding	\$ 142,715.28
Payroll Deductions	State Withholding	\$ 247,999.03
Payroll Deductions	Retirement Withholding	\$ 408,925.15
Payroll Deductions	Health Insurance	\$ 1,346,650.11
Payroll Deductions	Life Insurance	\$ 9,576.81
Payroll Deductions	Dental Insurance	\$ 65,216.20
Payroll Deductions	Other Withholdings	\$ 167,664.54
Total Payroll and Insurance		\$ 2,926,334.11
<u>Fund Transfers</u>		
Transfers between Funds		\$ 199,300.00
Total Fund Transfers		\$ 199,300.00
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Miscellaneous	OPEB Fund	\$ 40,000.00
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Trust Distribution	\$ 201,894.00
Miscellaneous	Williamstown Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,140.90
Miscellaneous	Compensated Balance Transfer	\$ 150,000.00
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Trust Contributions	\$ -
Miscellaneous	Library Annual Fund	\$ 35,791.00
Miscellaneous	Reimbursement for damages	\$ 4,122.03
Miscellaneous	Westlawn/Sherman Burbank Contributions	\$ 9,552.55
Miscellaneous	CPA to Affordable Housing Trust	\$ 75,000.00
Miscellaneous	Sale of Timber	\$ 144,433.38
Total Miscellaneous		\$ 663,933.86
Total Receipts		\$ 29,748,458.30

VETERANS SERVICES

Stephen Roy, Veterans Agent

The Williamstown Office of Veteran Services is directly responsible for providing veterans' benefits under Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the US Department of Veteran Affairs at the Federal level. These important programs provide a great many resources and financial assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents. The veterans of our community who are disabled, homeless, unemployed or suffering from the trauma of war with nowhere else to turn can find relief in the services provided by the Office of Veteran Services.

Accurate bookkeeping and 100% approval of all submitted claims to the Department of Veteran Services (DVS) in Boston continues to be a priority in this time of financial insecurity, which all of our communities are faced with. The Office of Veteran Services can assure full reimbursement to the Town of Williamstown under the guidelines of 108 CMR § 13.02 (3). Consequently, the need for meticulous recordkeeping and guaranteed reimbursement by the Commonwealth to the Town is imperative. In 2021, Veterans' Agent Stephen Roy processed \$67,102.03 in benefit claims without a single penny rejected by the Commonwealth - funding which would've otherwise been a liability to the community. Many widows and veterans have been saved from homelessness, hunger and despair by these funds.

With the drawdown in America's foreign engagements, many service members are coming home. While this is wonderful, the unfortunate truth of the matter is America continues to recover and meaningful employment opportunities are extremely scarce in our area for folks with advanced military training which often doesn't transition to civilian jobs. Worse, many soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines come home greatly challenged due to the horrific effect of war on the human psyche. The Office of Veteran Services assists a great number of veterans with filing claims through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This intimidating (and time consuming) process is extremely difficult to accomplish successfully; without assistance many claims would otherwise be denied by the VA. We assist veterans in acquiring the correct documentation, proper completion and submission to the appropriate entity. Other services provided include, but are not limited to, educational/employment assistance, dependency and indemnity compensation, alcohol/drug rehabilitation, housing assistance, referrals, and close contact with funeral homes and cemeteries to ensure all veterans' graves are properly honored. The Veterans' Office also serves as a depository for hundreds of thousands of documents and important records of historic value to the sons and daughters of Williamstown in secure archives.

VSO Roy maintains a very dynamic and flexible schedule serving the veterans of not only the Town of Williamstown, but the City of North Adams, Adams, Williamstown, Clarksburg, Florida, Savoy, Cheshire, Lanesborough and Dalton. The Veterans' Agent often makes special appointments and house calls to the sick, bedridden or elderly who cannot easily make it to the Municipal Building to process documentation; the Williamstown Office of Veteran Services is staffed Monday and Friday afternoons from 1:00 – 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Roy
Director of Veteran Services

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY

2020-2021 Academic Year

Superintendent: Dr. Jason P. McCandless

Principal: Cindy Sheehy

Assistant Principal: Kristen Thompson

Guiding beliefs identify the core values of the Williamstown Elementary School:

We believe...

- Every child has the right and potential to learn;
- In inspiring and nurturing children to care about and contribute to their world;
- All children deserve to have high expectations set for them and the support to achieve them;
- In commitment to professional growth for our faculty and staff;
- Parents and community play a critical role in education;
- All members of our school community need to feel safe;
- It is important to have built-in systems that support, implement and evaluate innovations;
- In respecting and fostering unique and diverse learning and teaching styles;
- In a curriculum that is coordinated and consistent, flexible and challenging to meet the needs of every learner;
- Mutual respect, honesty, and responsibility are vital to a healthy learning environment;
- It is the responsibility of the educational community to anticipate the changing needs in society and to evaluate and adopt the best educational practices.

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT and STAFFING 2020-2021

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

School Year/Grade	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
PreK	29	32	12	16	11
Kdg	47	56	59	38	36
1	74	58	62	56	37
2	60	72	57	61	55
3	54	58	72	58	54
4	56	56	62	68	60
5	72	52	55	60	66
6	59	74	57	52	57
TOTAL:	451	458	436	409	376

Data reflects enrollments as counted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, where district and school profiles report students physically enrolled in a school.

EDUCATIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFFING (Full-Time Equivalents) 2020-2021

Administrators	2
Instructional Staff	41.78
Special Education Teachers And Professional Support Staff	4.6
Paraprofessionals	18
Medical/Health Services	1
TOTAL:	67.38

Data reflects FTE by Job Classification as reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Social-Emotional Learning: As the pandemic continued to impact staff, students and their families, the focus on social emotional learning remained constant at WES. The school social adjustment counselor, Beth Persing, and school psychologist, Wendy Powell, increased time with students and staff through Zoom appointments, and virtual lunch bunches. A support services and resource site for community members, parents, and guardians was created to provide information about local resources, programs, services, and activities in the community, and local and national organizations that offer information, tools, and tips. Staff engaged in a variety of professional development opportunities devoted to teaching remotely including Google Classroom basics, Zoom, Discovery Education, Screencastify and other software designed for remote learning.

Williams Center for Learning in Action Partnership: The pandemic dramatically changed the ability to have Williams College students in the building; however, students provided academic support virtually to all grade levels. Elementary students could log on throughout asynchronous portions of their day to access help with assignments. College students also worked with specific teachers as classroom helpers to work in Zoom breakout rooms with small groups of students.

PTO Events: Unfortunately, the Words Are Wonderful author visit was postponed due to COVID; however, the WES PTO hosted a virtual Scholastic Book Fair as well as a Read-A-Thon to support the love of literacy.

COVID School Structure: With the district's focus heavily on the health and safety of students and staff, COVID safety measures permeated all aspects of school life. Students and staff navigated through a variety of learning models throughout the school year. Families had the option to participate in a hybrid learning model or a remote synchronous model known as the Remote Academy. In the hybrid learning model, students were divided into AM/PM cohorts. Half of the day was spent with the classroom teacher, whether in person or remote, working on core academic subjects. The second half of the day included asynchronous instruction from specialist teachers in gym, art, music and library as well as time to complete assignments from the classroom teacher. The Remote Academy was a standalone fully remote option that provided online synchronous instruction and allowed students to participate in their education entirely from home. The Remote Academy was staffed by teachers from both Williamstown Elementary and Lanesborough Elementary and students from both schools were able to attend. On April 5, 2021 students returned to school full time in-person with updated masking and distancing protocols. The Remote Academy continued to operate until the last day of school in June.

WILLIAMSTOWN HOUSING AUTHORITY
35 Adams Road
Williamstown, Massachusetts 01267
Tel: 413 458-8282 Fax: 413 458-9698

The Williamstown Housing Authority administers a total of 145 units of subsidized housing, both rental assistance and conventional units. This includes: 30 elderly apartments, Meadowvale, on Adams Road, 82 units of federally subsidized Section 8 rental assistance, 8 units of family housing at the corner of Cole Avenue and Stetson Road, 8 units for people with special needs on Adams Road, and 17 state funded rental vouchers. Our office is located at Meadowvale, 35 Adams Road.

We are presently accepting applications for elderly and family housing. However, our Section 8 Federally funded rental assistance program waiting list is closed at the present time, due to the number of applicants.

WILLIAMSTOWN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Linda Brown, Chair

The Williamstown Municipal Scholarship Committee oversees the granting of scholarships to residents of Williamstown who will be attending accredited colleges or vocational/technical schools. The scholarships are intended to support residents' educational goals, enhance their skills, or prepare them to re-enter the workforce.

The residents of Williamstown, through tax-deductible donations, fund these scholarships, which are issued by the town treasurer to the attending college in advance of the fall semester. Donations can be submitted to the town treasurer's office, or made alongside property tax payments.

This year, the committee was pleased to award a scholarship towards a local resident's continuing education, and we look forward to supporting more Williamstown students in the future.

Scholarship applications are available on the town's website, or from the town treasurer, by November 1st each year. Scholarship awards are decided in mid-January.

Committee members include Linda Brown, Donna Denelli Hess, Kris Kirby

APPENDICES

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WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER

Introduction

The Board of Directors and Administration of the Williamstown Youth Center are pleased to report that the WYC has resumed normal operations after a challenging 2021.

The After School Program, Summer Camp, and youth sports are all back after last year's restrictions. While the lack of access to Williams College facilities has kept our swimming, skating, and track and field programs on hold, registration numbers for our other programs are approaching pre-pandemic levels.

As always, town and other institutional and individual support have allowed us to keep our program fees affordable for just about any family budget, and to provide financial assistance to any family in need. Challenges do remain, however. The effects of COVID can be seen in our program revenue line, which is down in comparison to 2019. While state and federal assistance programs have offset this loss to a degree, they will not continue indefinitely. Meanwhile, increasing staff to maintain our student/staff ratio in grade-level cohorts meant that our expenses did not go down to a commensurate degree. Nevertheless, our commitment to providing high-quality programming for every family remains and is bolstered by how impactful our stable services have been over the past two years.



The WYC administration is overseen and supported by an active Board of Directors. Current members are:

Candice Constantine, Board President

T.J. Elder, Board Vice President

Sarah Voisin, Board Treasurer

LaTasha Turner, Board Secretary

and

At-large members Andrew Agostini, Andrew Art, LaTasha Turner, Melody Fisher, Carrie Snyder, Dawn Stewart, Amy Fredette, and non-voting student director Max Rhie.

Program Descriptions

Our current programs include our flagship After School Program, recreational sports, all-day summer and other school vacation camps, and a before school program.

All WYC programming is affordable, inclusive, and designed to provide not only childcare but recreational opportunities to enrich the lives of our young people and their families.

After School And Before School Programs

These two programs have the highest total registrations and participation rates. They are the two offerings that have the greatest impact on supporting our families.

Prior to March of 2020, our total After School enrollment was approximately 49% of the total enrollment of WES, while our average daily attendance of 100 was over 25% of this number. 35 children in the After School Program (about 25% of total enrollment) for the spring semester of 2020 received some form of financial aid. The number for our summer program was higher still.

Our enrollment is now approaching pre-pandemic levels, with daily attendance hitting the 100 mark for the first time since March 2020.

The After School Program is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and meets its requirements to operate. We apply for re-licensure every two years and we are subject to snap observations on a regular basis.

The WYC also operates a Before School Program from 7am to 8:30am each weekday. Kids join the group for a light breakfast, games, and homework help before the school day begins.

Full-Day Programs

Every summer, the WYC runs eight weeks of summer camps, from 8am to 5:30pm each weekday. The summer camp schedule includes two afternoons a week at Margaret Lindley Pond in Williamstown, two field trip days to regional organizations including museums and outdoor recreational venues, and a variety of collaborations between local sports clubs and swimming facilities.

Additionally, the WYC is open during school vacation periods, snow days, and professional in-service days at WES.

Sports, Recreational, and Arts programs

The WYC uses facilities at WES, as well as our own gym, for many of its sports programs, including basketball for kindergarteners through 8th graders, soccer for grades K-2, and weekly skiing and snowboarding lessons at Jiminy Peak. Parents, high school, Williams College, and MCLA coaches and students, and Youth Center staff all provide instruction. We eagerly await a return to Williams College facilities so that swimming, track and field, and ice skating can return to our slate of programs.

Art instruction is incorporated into our After School Program daily offerings. Outside play, including Nordic skiing and snowshoeing when weather permits, is encouraged year-round.

The Williamstown Youth Center programs are open to all children in Williamstown and surrounding communities. About 80% of the children enrolled in WYC programs since July are Williamstown residents.

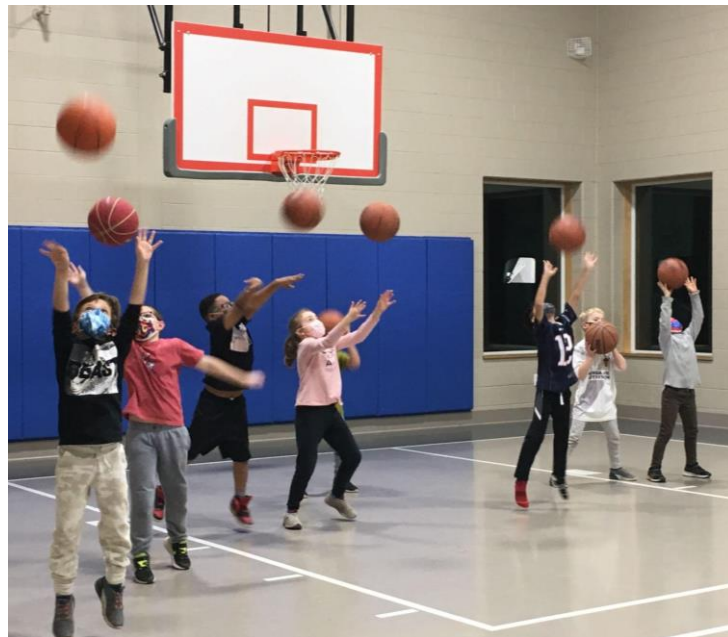
Guiding Philosophy

The WYC continues to adapt to reflect our belief that families need us to do more than simply facilitate team sports. The past two years have highlighted the important role we play as a community institution. The WYC has never been more necessary.

Given our established reputation and our continued strong partnerships with other local organizations, we are uniquely positioned to be not only a direct service provider, but also a reliable source of information and resources for families (particularly those who are new to the area) who need help navigating

activities for their kids. We are always looking for new ways to expand partnerships or to work with new organizations to offer a wider range of programs and reach a greater number of families.

Thank you for this opportunity to share the important work we are doing with you.



WILLIAMSTOWN FIRE DISTRICT



2021 PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Williamstown Fire District is an independent governmental entity created by a 1912 act of the Legislature. The District is governed by a board of five commissioners elected on a rotating basis on the same day as the District's annual meeting. The 2021 annual meeting took place on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. At the annual meeting, the District sets its budget and its tax levy for the following year. All registered voters of Williamstown are entitled and encouraged to attend the annual and monthly meetings at the District firehouse on Water Street or any other location designated by the commissioners and advertised as such.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Edward B. Briggs
Richard C. Reynolds (resigned in October 2021)
David R. Moresi
Lindsay Neathawk
John J. Notsley

Craig A. Pedercini, Chief
Corydon L. Thurston, Treasurer
Sarah Currie, Clerk
34 Water Street
(413) 458-8113

The Williamstown Fire District had an active year. The Prudential Committee met monthly via Zoom for the first half of the year. Starting in June, the committee was able to meet in-person at the fire station and at Town Hall. Prudential Committee meetings are public meetings and community members are welcome to attend. Meeting notices and login information for online meetings can be found on the town calendar. Most meetings are also recorded and can be viewed on WilliNet. The fire district thanks WilliNet for recording and presenting the meetings.

The fire district's annual meeting was held on Tuesday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Williamstown Elementary School. Voting for elected positions within the Williamstown Fire District took place before the annual meeting, from 4 - 7 p.m. David Moresi was elected to the Prudential Committee for a three year term and Lindsay Neathawk was elected to the Prudential Committee for a three year term.

Elected Prudential Committee members and term expirations are David R. Moresi 2024, Edward B. Briggs 2022, Lindsay Neathawk 2024, and John J. Notsley 2023. In October, Richard Reynolds resigned from the

committee and John Notsley was elected chair and David Moresi was elected as vice chair. The fire district thanks Richard Reynolds for his service. Appointed officials of the Williamstown Fire District include Corydon L. Thurston, Treasurer, and Sarah Currie, Clerk.

At the annual meeting, the District voted to appropriate \$25,000 for a Reserve Fund. The District also voted to raise and appropriate \$80,000 to be used as a "Design Fund" for the study, engineering, project management, architectural services, and any other costs related with the planning and design work necessary to prepare for the construction of a new fire house on the 562 Main Street property. It was also voted to appropriate, from Free Cash in the Treasury, the sum of \$25,000 for the "Design Fund." The district also voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 to be placed in the Stabilization Fund.

The fire district continued to plan for a new fire station and the Building Committee and the Community Advisory Committee were active in 2021.

Building Committee

The Building Committee is composed of eight members, five members have positions with the Fire Department, three members are community volunteers, and one member position is open for the town manager. The Building Committee is chaired by Elaine Neely. Other members of the Building Committee include Don Dubendorf, Ryan Housman, Jim Kolesar, David Moresi, John Notsley, Mike Noyes, and Craig Pedercini. The committee thanks former town manager, Jason Hoch, who advised the committee. The town manager position on the committee is currently vacant.

The committee requested proposals for the OPM position (owner's project manager) and received eight proposals. Colliers International was selected.

The next task was to hire an architectural team. Eight proposals were received. The committee selected EDM, a Pittsfield firm. Their team includes Mitchell Associates Architects as fire station architects, Guntlow Associates for civil engineering, and The Green Engineer, to lead our sustainability efforts.

Community Advisory Committee

The Williamstown Fire District's Community Advisory Committee was established in mid-2020 to provide access to and input from the community at large. It comprises seven community members selected to provide a broad range of individual perspectives. While the committee has no authority per se, it can make recommendations to the Fire District as well as support (or not) decisions by the Fire District and/or Prudential Committee.

In 2021, the committee examined several aspects of Fire District operations and was kept apprised of progress on the new fire station. Meeting agenda topics included staffing, call burden, equipment, training and finances. A working group of the committee explored current recruiting strategies and made recommendations to support growing the volunteer firefighters ranks to as much as twice its current size. The Community Advisory Committee is chaired by Jeffrey Thomas. Members of the committee include Markus Burns, Craig Pedercini, Theresa Sawyer, Susan Schneski, and Larry Smallwood. The committee thanks former members Carin DeMayo-Wall, Michael Rodriguez, and Christina Sanborn, for their service.

Outreach

The fire department continued its outreach to the community in 2021. In August, the fire department participated in National Night Out which was sponsored by the Williamstown police department. The event was well attended and a big community hit. Some of the other agencies that participated were the MA State Police, Forest Wardens, NBEMS and NBCC. In October, three events were held. The first was held on October 22. At this event, the fire department teamed up with the Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Equality Committee (DIRE) and hosted the DIRE and Fire Social, which took place in the late afternoon from 4pm to 5:50pm. Community members were encouraged to stop at the station for refreshments and discussion on whatever topic they would like to talk about. There was a good deal of discussion regarding the new station. It was also a good time to meet members of the fire department. Our next event was an Open House, which was held on Saturday, the 30th, from 11am to 2pm. We had a wonderful turnout of community members, parents, children, and even a few people from out of town stopped in. There was plenty of popcorn and refreshments to go around. Firefighters look forward to educating the public in fire prevention, which is our main priority, but the kids love to sit in the trucks and look at all the equipment. Our last event was held the next day, on Halloween, during trick or treat hours. Given the success of the previous year, firefighters once again positioned themselves at strategic locations in town, where an extremely large number of children are out trick-or-treating, and distributed glow sticks with the hope of ensuring our children enjoyed a safe Halloween.

Staffing

The fire district hired eight new members consisting of six Williams College students and two local residents. In December, Kenneth Campbell, Micah Manary, David Baron, Kendall Rice, David Luongo, Issac Leslie, Julian Sprio, and Simms Berdy were welcomed into the department. Ben Maron and Charles Xu, both Williams College seniors who have been with the department since their freshman and sophomore year, have graduated. Ben is considering a full time career in the fire service out in the central to eastern part of Massachusetts, where he resides. The fire district would like to thank Ben and Charles both for their service and wish them the best in their future endeavors. Currently the district has 25 firefighters and six deputy forest wardens.

Grants

The fire district has been actively applying for grants since 2003. As of the end of 2021, the district has received \$792,563. The fire district was awarded two grants in 2021. In January, the FY21 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant became available through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Department of Fire Services. The fire district was eligible for \$12,500, and received \$12,405, for the purchase of an Amkus battery-operated Ram, three piece extension, spare battery, and a charger. The district also purchased two Quattro 4 Gas Detectors. The Amkus Ram, and last year's purchase of a cutter and spreader are all used to perform extrication. The two new gas meters replaced our two aging gas meters, of which, only one was in service.

The fire district also applied for the FY22 Rural and Small Town Development Grant in early June. On October 18, 2021 the fire district received a letter from the Executive Office of Housing & Development, awarding the district four hundred thousand dollars. The grant award is currently being used towards the development of the new fire station. The district also received \$16,600 in Cares Act funding, which was used towards the purchase of computers and tablets for the Prudential Committee, Clerk, Treasurer, Chief and Officers. There are currently four open grants still pending in the amount of \$207,360, one of which is a regional grant.

Apparatus

In May of 2020, the fire district received approval from the voters at its annual district meeting to purchase a tanker truck. On May 21, 2021, the fire district took delivery of their first tanker truck, a Firovac (vacuum truck) that carries 2,600 gallons of water and has a 500 gallon per minute pump. There are two 3,000 gallon fold-a-tanks (collapsible water tanks) mounted on a hydraulic lift on the side of the truck. The tanker (W4) was put into service after everyone received the appropriate training. Since then, W4 has been on multiple calls including mutual aid to North Adams and Pownal, VT.

Training

Training in 2021 has seen some normalcy, although with Covid-19 still in the picture, the department still uses precautions whenever we are together. Masks are still required at all calls and in the fire station. Mandatory training was achieved this year. Firefighters were able to complete their hazardous material refresher and stepped up their medical training with the following classes: CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed, Trauma Response and Assessment and ICS Mass Casualty Incidents. The department has also trained in O2 Therapy and the administering of Narcan and now carries both on their apparatus. Other types of training the department has done include: tower operations, tanker operations/pumping, vehicle extrication, vehicle stabilization, SCBA search and rescue, tanker shuttle operations, ice water rescue awareness, ladders, radio communications, hydrants and advancing hoselines. Firefighters continue to take training online, such as: IS 100 Introduction to Incident Command System, IS 200 Basic Command System for Initial Response, IS 700 Introduction to the National Incident Management System and IS 800 National Response Framework, An Introduction. The Department of Fire Services also started classes back up and a few of our firefighters took the following classes: Vehicle Extrication, Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and one firefighter completed Fire Prevention Officer Level 1.

Noteworthy call

On Friday May 15th, late in the afternoon, the Fire Department responded with the Forest Warden's department to a report of smoke in the area of Henderson Road. Members of both departments searched the area and eventually located a fire on East Mountain. Several fire departments from North County, Pownal, VT, Clarksburg, North Adams, Hancock, New Ashford and the Adams Forest Wardens were called for mutual aid assistance. DCR, Department of Conservation and Recreation, was also notified and responded that evening. Firefighters spent the next 4-5 hours trying to get to the head of the fire and stop it from extending up the mountain, but were unsuccessful. As darkness set in, all firefighters were pulled off the mountain for safety reasons. Fire Officers regrouped that evening at the Williamstown fire station to establish a plan for the next day. A strategy was put together and was implemented the next morning at 6 a.m. Additional resources had to be brought in as the fire continued out of control and into the Clarksburg State Forest. In midafternoon, due to high winds, all firefighters were pulled out of the wood, again for safety reasons. By this time the East Mountain fire was getting statewide recognition and support from other agencies, such as the Department of Fire Services, MEMA, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the Governor's office.

Day three began at 6:30 a.m. The plan was for firefighters to split into two groups and attack the fire from two directions. While firefighters hiked back up the mountain and continued battling the blaze, another plan was being implemented. Around 12:30 p.m., the first of two Mass State Police Air Wings arrived and started water drop operations. The water drops were effective in suppressing the fire and

slowed it down, giving the firefighters on the ground a chance to start gaining control. By the end of day three, the fire was approximately 60 percent contained.

Day four began at 7:00 a.m. and was much like day three, boots on the mountain and water drops. The Massachusetts State Police provided one Air Wing and the National Guard provided a Blackhawk helicopter. By the end of the day, the fire was still burning but was under control. The operations were downsized to a handful of firefighters and DCR staff over the next four days before the fire was declared 100 percent extinguished.

The East Mountain fire consumed 947 acres and involved over 2 dozen departments and agencies. Over 300 firefighters and operational staff battled the fire. Members of the Williamstown Forestry Department spent an additional 3 days assisting DCR with mopping up the fire. This was the largest wildland fire in Massachusetts since the 1999 Tekoa Mountain fire in Russell, MA, which burned 1,100 acres.

Another extraordinary thing happened during that historic fire. A town resident posted on social media a request for donations of water and food to help out the firefighters while they were fighting the fire. The request was to drop off any donated supplies to this resident's home. A table was placed in the front yard next to the road as a drop off point. The outpouring of support from the Williamstown Community was unbelievable. As word got around on social media, within a short span of time, dozens of cases of water, boxes of snacks and food were dropped off at the resident's home. Over the next few days, people, restaurants and businesses from Williamstown and our surrounding communities, including Pownal, VT, were making sandwiches and donating drinks to support the firefighters. Others were making monetary donations to purchase supplies. This act of kindness continued to balloon into such an incredible amount of donations that a larger vehicle was necessary. The Sand Springs Water Company donated a van for the three days of fire operations. The van was used to transport all the liquid and food supplies to multiple drop off points in Williamstown, North Adams and Clarksburg. A big thank you to Jennifer and Shuan for their generous contribution. The fire district recognizes and extends their heartfelt appreciation to Andi Bryant for her time and for orchestrating all of this. Who knew what one social media post would turn into? The district also extends its thanks to past Prudential Committee Chair, Richard Reynolds, for the generous donation of his time and effort that went into planning and transporting the liquid refreshments and food supplies to all the operations sites. Great job, both of you! Finally, the Williamstown Fire District, thanks the entire Williamstown community for not only their support during the East Mountain fire but for their continued support throughout the year of 2021.

Mutual Aid

The fire district provided mutual aid on ten different occasions. The department responded to four incidents in North Adams, two of which were structure fires and the other a scrap yard fire that lasted two days. The first call was in January on Greylock Avenue. Williamstown responded with W2, a crew of four, and Car 1. They were assigned to search three adjacent apartments for occupants and laying a water supply line 600 feet from a hydrant two streets away to North Adams Engine 3. Once the fire was under control, Williamstown broke down the supply line and remained on scene to respond to other calls in the City of North Adams. While standing by, W2 was dispatched to Brayton Hill apartments for a report of a gas odor in a home. Berkshire Gas was contacted and responded to the scene. By the end of the call, the gas to a kitchen stove was turned off until the appliance could be repaired and was safe to use.

A large fire at Apkins Scrap Yard on State Street brought multiple fire departments to North Adams, including Williamstown. W2 and a crew supplied North Adams ladder truck with water for several hours. Williamstown's Car 1 was also involved in setting up a tanker water supply with other responding departments. The fire continued through the night and into the next day. W2 and a fresh crew spent the second day standing by in the North Adams station covering the city. The fourth call to North Adams was a small building fire on Hunter Foundry Road. Tanker W4 responded to its first call and supplied water to North Adams Engine 3.

Williamstown responded to Pownal, VT on four occasions, of which, three were reported as structure fires. The first call came in January and was reported as a fully involved structure on Stateline Drive. The Pownal Fire department called Williamstown immediately for mutual aid and they responded with W2 and a crew of three. In the meantime, a Williamstown fire officer who happened to be in Vermont on Stateline Drive responded directly to the address and was the first firefighter to arrive on scene. Reporting nothing showing from the exterior, the officer then spoke with the homeowner who stated there was smoke in the house and flames were coming from the pellet stove chimney. Entering the home the officer found smoke conditions but no flames visible and reported his findings to the responding Pownal firefighters via radio. The fire was downsized to a pellet stove issue and once Pownal firefighters were on scene, they cleared W2 and its crew. There were two other mutual aid structure fire calls to Pownal where Williamstown was requested to the scene, and while en route, was redirected to Pownal's station to cover the town for other calls.

Williamstown responded Mutual Aid to Pownal VT for a Hazardous Material spill in early December. The Pownal fire department was looking for assistance with a tanker truck parked across the road from the Stewarts Convenience store that was leaking liquid Aluminum Sulfate. The tanker was leaking a fairly large amount of liquid onto the roadway and it was running across the street to a catch basin. Pownal Fire was looking for diking material and technical support. The truck was from the Holland Company who sent a few representatives to assist with the spill. Williamstown responded with engine W1 and a crew. The road was closed down at the Simonds Road/Sand Spring intersection by the Williamstown Police Department. Williamstown W1 blocked the road from traffic once they were on scene in Pownal. Vermont agencies were not the only ones that responded that morning. The Williamstown Fire Chief was already out checking on an unknown trail of fluid which was reported by Williamstown Police Officer Skorupski. The trail of fluid started in North Adams and entered Williamstown in the westbound lane. It continued to the intersection of Routes 2 & 7 and then headed North on 7 all the way into Pownal where the tanker was discovered leaking. Officials in North Adams reported the spill started at the intersection of State St. & Main Street adjacent to the city hall and headed up over the overpass on route 2 and into Williamstown. Other agencies that were called to assist with the spill in Williamstown, North Adams, and Pownal were Berkshire County Hazmat Team, Mass DEP, MEMA, North Adams Fire, Northern Berkshire REPC, North Adams DPW and the Williamstown DPW. The incident lasted approximately six hours. Once the roadway was cleaned up in Pownal, Route 7 was opened back up to traffic. The DPW's from North Adams and Williamstown cleaned up the roads in their own city and town.

Other calls of interest

The fire department responded to 10 calls for gas odors throughout the year, of which seven went unfounded, while three were confirmed leaks. During a gas odor/leak call, the fire department has the responsibility of identifying the extent of the hazard and managing it until Berkshire Gas personnel arrive. The Berkshire Gas Company in each case has always been quick to respond and has been great to work with. There were 122 activated fire alarms, 13 of those calls were for assistance with fire alarm

issues. Chief Officers responded to 16 carbon monoxide alarms of which 3 had an actual CO issue in the residence. In most cases either the CO sensor in the detector had expired or the battery was low. The department responded to 14 motor vehicle accidents, of which three had entrapment and the fire department had to extricate the occupants out of the vehicle. Firefighters responded to the Fairfield Inn on two occasions for a stalled elevator. Two people were rescued the first time and nine on the second incident.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector Tips

In many cases, smoke detectors can be activated by dust. Other detectors were found to have low batteries or the service life of the detector expired. Proper upkeep and maintenance can prevent false alarms, so check the device's manual for instructions on how to maintain it. The fire department is available and willing to visit any residence to answer questions regarding smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

241 Calls:

Structure Fires - 3, Chimney Fires - 1, Dumpster Fires - 2, Passenger Vehicle Fire - 2, Electrical Fires - 2, Gasoline Spills/Leaks - 4, Brush Fire - 1, Forest Fire - 1, Electrical Burning Odor Issues - 2, Electrical/Transformer/Pole/Tree/Wires down - 3, Motor Vehicle Accidents - 14, Natural/Propane Gas Odor/Leaks - 10, Stalled Elevators - 2, Water Issues/Broken Pipes/Flooding Basements - 8, Carbon Monoxide Alarms - 19, Rescues - 2, Activated Fire Alarms Including Sprinkler Systems - 124, Assisted Resident's with Alarm System - 10, Smoke/Good Intent Calls - 14, Service Calls - 2 (assisted resident, assisted WPD), Assisted NBEMS - 7, Mutual Aid Calls: Structure Fires - 6 (3 Pownal VT, 2 North Adams and 1 Clarksburg), Scrap Yard Fire (North Adams 2 days), Hazardous Material Spill, (Pownal Vt), Called to Hancock but canceled.

Chief Pedercini conducted regular inspections of public and private schools, restaurants, theaters, motels, inns and nursing homes. Building construction continues to keep the fire department busy with plan reviews and inspections. The fire chief and building commissioner continue to work closely together throughout the year while performing inspections of fire alarms, sprinkler systems and liquor license renewals.

230 permits were issued for smoke/co detectors, liquid propane gas, tank removals, oil burners, tank truck inspection, fire protection system, fuel tank storage, hot works, fireworks, hood suppression systems, floor refinishing and fire reports.

Forest Warden's Report

For the year of 2021, the Forest Warden's Department issued Town burning permits from January 15th through May 1st as well as Agricultural permits year-round. The season was somewhat dry but we were able to issue permits most days. In total, the department issued 270 permits and responded to 14 calls. The department answered 49 phone calls regarding outdoor burning. There were four fires in town, three of which were small and quickly extinguished. The other fire was one for the record books.

On Friday May 15th, late in the afternoon, the Williamstown Forest Warden's Department and the Fire Department responded to a report of smoke sighted in the area of Henderson Road. Members of both departments searched the area and eventually located a fire on East Mountain. The forestry and fire department members along with a few mutual aid departments spent 4-5 hours trying to extinguish the

fire, to no avail. Once the sun went down and darkness set in, all resources were pulled off the mountain for safety reasons.

The East Mountain fire turned into a four day event consuming 947 acres and involved over two dozen departments and agencies. Members of the Williamstown Forestry Department spent an additional three days assisting DCR, Department of Conservation and Recreation with mopping up the fire. This was the largest wildland fire in Massachusetts since the 1999 Tekoa Mountain fire in Russell, MA, which burned 1,100 acres.

The department also responded to six calls that were a combination of illegal outside fires and/or smoke complaints. We also responded to a lost hiker call, a deer that fell through the ice on a pond, and two Mutual Aid fire calls. The Deputy Warden's hiked the RRR trail one night in search of two lost hikers and once found, helped them out of the woods. The deer was able to get out of the water on its own, so no intervention was required. The mutual aid calls were to Pownal and Stamford, VT, to assist them with their out of control fires.

The department received the VFA Grant for 2021 which is a 50-50 grant in the amount of \$2076.42. We purchased 4 tires for Brush 2 (Dodge), 4 tires for Brush 3 (Ranger 6x6), two tires and chains for brush 4 (Honda 4 Wheeler).

The Forest Warden's Department trains monthly in fire suppression and vehicle maintenance. Everyone also recertified in First Responder and CPR/AED. This year all of the Deputy Wardens took the Ice Water Rescue class with the fire department and are at the Awareness level at this time.

The department participated in the 4th of July parade and assisted the fire department with the 4th of July fireworks. In August, the Williamstown police department hosted National Night Out, which we also attended.

2021 Report of the Williamstown Fire District Treasurer:

Williamstown Fire District

FY 2021

July 1, 2020

RECEIPTS:

Town of Williamstown (Taxes collected)	\$542,445	92.83%
Williams College	\$29,802	5.10%
Inspection Fees	\$7,180	1.23%
Interest Income	\$2,337	0.40%
Miscellaneous	\$400	0.07%
Donations	\$2,195	0.38%

	\$584,359	
		\$584,359

EXPENSES

Audit	\$8,000	1.64%
Berkshire County Retirement	\$33,009	6.78%
Communications	\$11,766	2.42%
Debt Service	\$0	0.00%
Dispatch	\$60,194	12.37%
Education and Training	\$5,444	1.12%
Insurance	\$50,390	10.36%
Legal	\$13,715	2.82%
Maintenance & Operation	\$48,393	9.95%
Pay of Firemen	\$41,584	8.55%
Salaries	\$103,668	21.31%
Services & Supplies	\$19,350	3.98%
Street Lighting	\$85,196	17.51%
Utilities	\$5,411	1.11%
Water Rents	\$1,650	0.34%
Total Operations Article 5		(\$487,770)

Other Articles

Stabilization Article 7	FY '21	\$50,000
Grant Article 8	FY '18	\$157
Communication Article 8	FY '18	\$4,900
Main St Property Article 10	FY '20	\$10,394

(\$65,451)

(\$553,221)

Income / Expense

NET Balance

June 30, 2021

\$31,138

Stabilization Fund

	July 1, 2020	\$697,217
Additions		\$50,000
Tanker Truck		(\$379,378)
Interest		\$3,259

Fund Balance

June 30, 2021

\$371,098

Corydon L Thurston, Treasurer

**Subject to Audit Adjustment*

WILLIAMSTOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Annual Report to the Town 2021

The Pandemic Continues

The Williamstown Historical Museum has persevered as the world faced another challenging year. For the most part, we were able to carry out our regular activities, such as welcoming visitors, research and research assistance, program presentation, and exhibit preparation. Collection maintenance and digitalization suffered owing to a reduction in volunteers.

Work carried on remotely as well as in person, and the museum engaged with the public through regular social media posts and emails. Publicity assistant Gail Burns worked (from January through June) on the museum's social media initiatives. We continued to present programs virtually, like webinars, to great effect, enabling us to reach a broader audience, including in other parts of the country. The WHM is grateful for its continued partnership with Willinet. Videos from our programs can be accessed through Willinet as well as through our own website.

The museum was open to visitors on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 to 2 for most of the year. We published three newsletters during the year, disseminated online and in hard copy to those on our mailing list for whom we do not have email addresses. Our revised mission statement and a land acknowledgment (see below) were printed in each newsletter and our commitment to broaden our collection to include underrepresented populations is stronger than ever. We invite residents to share their stories and carry out research to expand our knowledge of the diverse histories of all residents.

Revised WHM Mission and Supporting Statements

The purpose of the Williamstown Historical Museum is to promote interest in the history of the Williamstown area by collecting, cataloging, and preserving items of historical significance, and to increase the public's knowledge of Williamstown's past through educational exhibits, programs, events, research, publications, and any other functions which further this purpose. The Williamstown Historical Museum is committed to collecting and sharing the stories of all of the residents of this area across the centuries.

The WHM Collection

The museum's collection consists of items dating from early history in the region through the present day, and the collection is always growing. The museum encourages all residents and museum members to share their stories, make suggestions about areas of research and program presentation, and participate in the museum's activities so a broader understanding of the history of Williamstown can be gained and shared. We need your help to ensure that everyone is represented, and we hope you will contribute to the diversity of the collection by sharing your story, your thoughts, and artifacts related to the town's history. Thank you for your investment in your town.

Land Acknowledgement

"It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking, and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all."

Historic Barn Preservation Project

In 2020 the museum embarked on a special project to preserve the iconic Dolan-Jenks barn, originally located on Green River Road. The barn was donated to the museum by Carole and Peter Dolan. In fall 2021 it was disassembled by David Babcock Brothers and the structural parts in need of repair were taken to their shop. The remaining pieces have been stored in the yard behind the museum. Reassembly is planned for late spring 2022. This will bring new life to a barn that is roughly 170 years old. The prospect of opportunities to connect with the past is inspiring. On the grounds of the museum, the barn will be available for visitors to learn more about the town's agricultural past and the methods of construction used in previous centuries. At the May 2021 town meeting the project was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Community Preservation funds and in October we received a Flynt grant of \$2,500. Private fund-raising is continuing.

Exhibits

The Woman Suffrage exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution continued to be up into 2021, until spring, when "Sliding Baseball Across was Williamstown" was mounted. This extensive exhibit was brought to us by Lorence Moore of the Berkshire Baseball Association and featured photos and text on notable Williamstown players through the years. It remained in place until World Series Time and was a destination for many visitors throughout the summer and fall, in early December "Children and Schools in Williamstown" opened with a small reception. A feature of this exhibit is the five dollhouses created by late Williamstown resident Lynn Laitman, given to the museum by her family.

Outreach and Public Programs

The museum sponsored seven lectures/programs in 2021, the first five as webinars and the last two in person: "Williamstown and the Spanish Flu" (Dusty Bahlman), "Native American Names for Local Places" (Christine DeLucia), "Oblong Road" (Dusty Griffin), "Williamstown Meeting Houses" (Patricia Leach), "Black Residents of the White Oaks" (Dustin Griffin), "Meet and Greet with Notable Williamstown Baseball Players" (Lorence Moore), "Down Memory Lane: Looking Back at the Early Years of The Clark (Jock and Jytte Brooks). The museum book group met monthly online.

A highlight of the year was the return of our Hay Day fair (not held in 2020 for Covid reasons) chaired for the fourth time by board program chair Patrick Quinn on August 15. We raised a total of \$8700 on admissions, outdoor country fair activities and an indoor silent auction. This is an important addition to our income, which largely comes from member donations. More than 300 people attended this popular event.

Key Museum Activities

We continued to answer research questions involving genealogy, housing, etc, and to accept donations of historic objects and papers. Potential donations were reviewed and accepted (mostly) or rejected by the Collections Committee. Timely cataloging of accepted items is scheduled to improve.

Membership grew in 2021, with a total of 57 new member households. Members renew in the month they joined and the ongoing renewals have been handled for many years by board member Patricia Greenberg with staff and volunteer assistance. New Williamstown residents are welcomed to town by the museum on a regular basis and are sent a membership brochure.

Staff and Volunteers

We exist with part-time paid staff — 20 hours per week. In 2021, longtime Executive Director Sarah Currie cut back to 10 hours owing to homeschooling needs, and intern Kendall McGowan became a paid assistant for 10 hours. Sarah resigned to take another job on July 1 and Kendall became Museum Administrator, working 20 hours per week. The contributions of board members and volunteers are crucial for augmenting the work of our paid staff.

It has been difficult to maintain a strong volunteer contingent during Covid, but we are grateful for the help received for greeting visitors, aiding in research, and helping with exhibits. We thank all our volunteers and can always use more. Interested people can contact Michael@williamstownhistoricalmuseum.org.

Please come visit, either online or in-person to learn more about Williamstown's history. We are fortunate to have our headquarters at the historic schoolhouse at 32 New Ashford Road, near Five Corners. We look forward to seeing you!